FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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LD251255 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

An Iranian Navy frigate "disrupted the formation" of a U.S. military convoy in the Gulf, Tehran radio reported.

In the area of diplomacy, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani reiterated that the U.S. military presence in the region has "disrupted regional peace, security, and freedom of navigation," Tehran radio reported. Prior to a meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York, Larijani stressed that the Islamic Republic "does not accept" Resolution No 598. He added, however, that Iran is "ready to cooperate with any effort" toward peace. The Iranian official also discussed regional concerns with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, the radio reported. According to TASS, Petrovskiy also reviewed the "tense situation" in the Gulf and the Iran-Iraq war with Iraqi official Ismat Kittani.

In remarks to a Tehran meeting of the All-Iran War Support Headquarters, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the Western naval presence in the Gulf "obvious support" for Iraq, IRNA reported. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also declared that the Mecca "massacre" and the Tunis conference of Arab League foreign ministers are aspects of anti-Iran "plots hatched by global arrogance."

Inter-Arab Affairs

The final draft of the communique on the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis will not mention breaking relations with Iran, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed 25 August, adding that Syria, Libya, Algeria, Oman, and the UAE oppose that stipulation. In remarks cited by Damascus radio, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told his Arab colleagues that his country rejected the "insane Iraq-Iran war from the start" and believes that the conflict can only be ended by way of a "comprehensive, cohesive strategy that does not seek to turn Iran into an enemy of the Arabs." Al-Shar' also spoke in favor of urgently convening an Arab summit to "chart a joint Arab strategy."

Libya

Hostage Diplomacy — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that he will "do all he can" toward the release of hostage Terry Waite, JANA reported. Al-Qadhdhafi promised the Reverend Graham Ferguson Lacey that he would dispatch representatives to Beirut and Damascus to discuss the issue, *Press Association*, noted, adding that Lacey, a Baptist minister and friend of the kidnapped Anglican envoy, was in Libya on a "personal quest."

Conflict With Chad — A Libyan Mirage was shot down over Ounianga 24 August, according to a FANT communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio. The communique noted that some civilians were killed when Libya bombed Ounianga and Aozou.

Lebanon

A videotape of German hostages Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut contains an "indirect demand" for the release of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, DPA reported 25 August, pointing out that a "relevant expert" declared that an "exchange deal" is "totally out of the question." The agency previously reported that a German Foreign Ministry official's scheduled visit to Damascus is thought to be "directly connected" with the hostage issue.

PLO Affairs

According to a statement from Fatah's Information Bureau in Lebanon, Zayd Wahbah, aka Abu Usamah, continues to be "official in charge of Fatah in Lebanon," the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported, adding that "local efforts are being made" to resolve an "internal disagreement."

Syria

Five men were executed after being convicted for the 16 April 1986 bombings of public buses, Damascus radio announced. The defendants had confessed that the "criminal fascist regime in Iraq" recruited and trained them for their "abominable crime" which caused 400 casualties, the radio noted.

Sudan

Asylum Request — The authorities are considering the request for asylum of an Ethiopian pilot who landed his military helicopter at Shuwak 21 August, SUNA reported.

Newspaper Closed — In accordance with provisions in the emergency law, the daily *Al-Siyasah* was closed down for having published a "tendentious report" alleging that Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, who is also secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party, accepted money from a foreign diplomat in exchange for party "secrets," SUNA reported. The public prosecutor announced that a committee will be formed to investigate the accusations, the agency added.

DRA-Pakistan

The Pakistani charge d'affaires was summoned to receive a note protesting a 4 August missile attack on a border post in Spin Buldak District, Qandahar Province, during which two border guards were killed and six other people killed or wounded, Kabul radio reported. The note also "resolutely refutes" Pakistani accusations that the DRA Armed Forces "violated" Bajaur Agency in mid-July and Mohmand Agency in early August.

Correction to 24 August Review

The following correction pertains to the section headlined "PLO Affairs" published in the 24 August Middle East & South Asia Review, page AA 2, column 2, paragraph two, first sentence:

...Yasir 'Arafat dismissed Zayd Wahbah, his most senior representative in Lebanon... (correcting surname)

Reportage on Arab League Council Meeting in Tunis

Saudi Minister Opens Session

LD232115 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Aug (SPA) — The emergency meeting of the Arab League Council began in Tunis this evening to discuss the current situation in the Arab world, particularly the Arab Gulf region. It was chaired by His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and attended by 19 ministers.

His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed the importance of the period in which this emergency session is being held. In his opening speech this evening, he called for the utmost vigilance, maximum cooperation, and serious work by Arab countries to confront present circumstances.

The foreign minister reviewed the major elements characterizing the current period. He noted that Jerusalem is still occupied while Lebanon remains a target for repeated Israeli aggressions and a theater for violance and infighting.

His highness referred to the destructive war between Iraq and Iran, which has entered its 8th year, pointing out that this conflict is still claiming lives, wasting energy, and exposing Arab security in general and the security of the Gulf region in particular to the most serious dangers. His highness emphasized that the mounting dangers of the Iraq-Iran war and its threat to Arab security result from the unfair Iranian stand. His highness recalled the resolutions issued by previous Arab summits, stressing the need for a unified Arab stand. This had also been emphasized at various earlier sessions of the Arab League Council during which a number of resolutions were adopted. The last such meeting was the 87th session,which placed this subject at the center of the Arab nation's concerns.

His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal noted that since the outbreak of the Iranian revolution, the Arab world has affirmed its eagerness to deal with the new regime there in all good faith and with noble intentions. It has welcomed cooperation with that regime on the bais of its declared support for the Palestinian issue and its desire to distance the superpowers' conflict from the region. He stressed that the Arab world does not seek to endorse the hostility with Iran and expressed the Arab world's appreciation of and amity toward Iran and its people. He prayed that God will preserve them so that Islam will be strengthenedwith them and that they may play their part as a source of power and cohesion for the great Islamic nation.

His royal highness the foreign minister added: "Despite all this and the fact that Arab countries' have overlooked many provocative acts by the Iranians, maintaining on their own side natural relations with Iran" -- and some have even gone further to the extent that they have wholeheartedly sided with Iran -- events have proved that this has all been in vain. Iran has opted to follow a deviated ccurse and has insisted on being an example of obstinacy and harshness, an example of subversion and terrorism, [words indistinct]its scheme which harbors evil toward Arabs and Muslims.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal praised the international efforts being made by the ICO, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Arab League to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war through negotiations with the two sides now that it has been confirmed that this conflict only brings them destruction and losses. These efforts are being undertaken to ensure that the Islamic spirit, which calls for peace and justice and which prevents the bloodshed of Muslims, will prevail.

His highness pointed out that it is painful to all to find that Iran has not responded to these calls at a time when Iraq has approved all the peaceful initiatives. He said that the Council is looking forward to a unified and unanimous Arab stance on this war. He noted that matters have reached a point where silence is no longer of any use. It is now the duty of us all to make a move in a way that will be compatible with the nature of the dangers of this war and its developments. We must rise to the level dictated to us by our historical responsibilities and our commitments to this war. His highness added that Iran has not contented itself with this conflict, which has spread anxiety and unrest in the region, exposed it to the dangers of foreign intervention, and driven it into the cauldron of international conflict. It has also directed all of its resources to antagonizing the Arab nation, harming its interests, and jeopardizing pan-Arab security.

He also asserted that Iran has threatened the security and stability of its neighbors in the Gulf and has let no opportunity in the past go by without showing a hostile spirit toward its leaders and peoples. He noted that Iran has planted mines in the waters of the Gulf and has worked to involve it in the whirlpool of war, enmity and unrest. Iran has interfered in the internal affairs of Lebanon and has contributed to submerging it in the seas of sedition, civil war, killing, and destruction.

His highness the foreign minister stressed that "at a time when Iran has disturbed the peace of all of its neighbors, Arabs and Muslims, it has also satisfied the enemies of Islam -- at the forefront of which is Israel -- as more contacts between the Iranian regime and the Zionist entity are being exposed daily. While the rulers of Iran were hiding behind Islamic slogans, pretending that they were seeking the service of Islam and Muslims, events have proved that Iran was following a course hostile to the Islamic nation.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal enumerated the following events which have proved the involvement of the rulers of Tehran in this deviationist scheme. He recalled their rejection of the resolutions of the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait and, before that, its boycotting of the Islamic summit conference in holy Mecca and the conferences of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, as well as its unresponsive stand to peace appeals from the ICO.

He pointed to the doubt and mistrust that this deviated Iranian peril in the Islamic arena has created among the international community toward Islamic action. Through its subversive actions and terrorist practices, Iran is responsible for the distortion of the reputation of Islam and for harming Muslims, he stated.

His highness added: "As if all that Iran has committed in terms of shameful actions were not enough, it also recently planned in

a premeditated way the misguided sedition which took place in holy Mecca during the pilgrimage this year with no regard for the sanctity of this Islamic rite, a rite which is a duty toward God and a basic component of Islam that must be respected and that must not be lead astray from its noble objectives."

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that the Iranian regime cannot continue to exist in a peaceful and stable condition, for it has become clear beyond any doubt that the Tehran rulers artificially create raging conflicts, go to the utmost limits to create acute tension, and persistently start fires in the region in order prepare the ground for the implementation of their schemes. He also emphasized that the dark times being experienced by the Gulf region as a result of the fact that Iran flouts international rules and norms can only leave an imprint on Arab relations with Iran. These relations are bound to be affected by this position and by this conduct and practice by Iran.

He added: "Things have reached the limit." He asserted that unless the leaders of Iran return to their senses and meet on a reciprocal basis the Arab nation's adherence to good-neighborliness with Iran, its desire for joint cooperation, and its respect for others' rights and for noninterference in the internal affairs of others, and unless the Tehran rulers prove their good faith and put an end to their intentions, then the Arab states must adopt a united position. They must react in such a way that they voice their attitude and make clear what they should do to face up to this situation.

At the end of his speech, the foreign minister stressed the efforts being made by the Arab League Follow-up Committee to have contacts with Security Council member states, particularly the permanent members of the Council, urging them to assume their responsibility in bringing about peace between the two warring countries. Their efforts have culminated in the adoption of Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for an immediate end to the war between the two countries, a halt to all military action on the ground, in the sea, and in the air, and the withdrawal of all forces without delay to recognized borders. He stressed paragraph 10 of this resolution, which stipulates that the Security Council should meet once again if necessary to examine additional steps to ensure that this resolution is observed.

His highness the foreign minister considered Iran's procrastination to abide by the Security Council resolution as a rejection of this resolution. He urged the debates of the Arab League Council to reflect the great interest it attaches to taking a serious position that will stress looking to the Security Council to adopt a clear resolution that will show its credibility and a serious stance for the implementation of this resolution in accordance with the UN Charter.

Klibi Supports Saudi Arabia

LD232121 Kuwait KUNA in English 1709 GMT 23 Aug 87

[By Jassem Matter]

[Excerpts] Tunis, Aug 23 (KUNA) — The extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers opened here tonight in the presence of all Arab chief diplomats with the exception of those of Libya and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

For his part, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi charged that Iran had sought to expand the Gulf war and to destabilize Arab countries in and outside the Gulf region.

Recalling the Iranian pilgrims rioting in holy Mecca last July 31, Klibi addressed Iranian leaders saying "Let it be known to you that Saudi Arabia is trusted by all countries interested in the hajj ritual," fifth pillar of Islam, and they all appreciate the Kingdom's efforts to facilitate the pilgrimage.

He pointed out that Iran can still avoid deepening the conflict and avoid further repercussions if it accepted to seriously cooperate with the U.N. secretary general in implementing the Security Council unanimous Resolution 598 to reach a peaceful and just settlement to the dispute.

Klibi described the Security Council resolution as "historic," although it does not respond in full to the Arab viewpoint.

He called on the Arab countries to stand in face of aggressions on Arab territories in Iraq and renewed that security of any country in the region is linked to the pan-Arab security.

"We will not permit threats or aggressions against these countries, and since Kuwait is currently targeted, our meeting today is to emphasize clearly that Kuwait's security is guaranteed by all Arab countries."

While maintaining alert to preserve national Arab security, "we always announce that our firm goal is to work for peace that guarantees Arab rights and ensures safety and stability of Arab countires."

Prince Sa'ud, in his capacity as current chairman of the meeting, then limited the session to members of the official delegations. The second working session is to be held Monday, only in the presence of chief delegates and permanent representatives to the Arab League.

Session Adjourns 23 Aug

LD232318 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2143 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Aug (SPA) — The first meeting of the Arab League Council emergency session was adjourned tonight following speeches by a number of delegation leaders at a closed meeting. The speakers stressed the need to adopt a united Arab stand with regard to the events taking place in the Arab Gulf region. The Council will resume its meetings tomorrow morning.

Syria's Al-Shar' Addresses Meeting

JN242054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed Syria's stand, which has rejected the insane Iraq-Iran war from the start. This policy is prompted by the war's dangers and

complications which threaten the region's security and exhaust the resources of its nations. Al-Shar' delivered a speech at the emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers council in Tunis today. In his address, he said that Syria has exerted great and continuous efforts over the last few years to prevent the war from reaching fraternal Arab countries which did not want it in the first place. He added that halting the Iraq-Iran war as a unanimous Arab demand cannot be achieved by an international resolution in light of Arab fragmentation. He said that it also cannot be accomplished by issuing more international resolutions, or by the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf region.

He explained that halting this war cannot be realistically achieved except within the framework of a unified Arab stand and a comprehensive, cohesive strategy that does not seek to turn Iran into an enemy of the Arabs. Rather, efforts to end the war should be joined with our attempts to establish good-neighborly relations and cooperation with Iran. In conclusi , he affirmed that confronting the developments and dangers threatening our region and finding comprehensive solutions for them necessitate the convention of an Arab summit as soon as possible. This summit would chart a joint Arab strategy capable of confronting all the dangers currently threatening our nation.

15 States Favor Breaking Ties
JN240956 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 24 Aug (INA) — Arab foreign ministers resumed the meetings of their extraordinary session in Tunis today. The meetings began yesterday. The Arab foreign ministers are discussing the possibility of adopting a unified Arab stand on the Iraq-Iran war and Iranian threats to Arab Gulf countries.

Twenty-one Arab countries, 17 of which are represented by their foreign ministers, are participating in this session, which is being chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The INA correspondent in Tunis has learned from responsible sources at the foreign ministers conference that 15 Arab states have so far agreed to a draft resolution submitted at the second closed session today. The resolution deals with the severing of diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime.

Resolution Denouncing Iran Discussed
LD241126 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Tunis, 24 Aug (KUNA) — The Arab League Council today resumed the emergency session it began yesterday to discuss developments in the Arab Gulf region.

During the Council's closed session last night, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, called for the holding of an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the current situation in the Gulf region resulting from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war.

The Kuwaiti call for the convocation of an emergency session was supported by the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Libyan delegations.

The current Arab League meeting, which is being held at Tunisia's request, is chaired by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, whose country is chairing the current Arab League session.

Informed diplomatic sources have told KUNA that calm but intensive contacts are in progress on the sidelines to bring closer the various Arab views concerning what practical collective Arab measures should be taken to urge Iran to accept an end to its devastating war with Iraq. [passage omitted]

Sources close to the Arab foreign ministers meeting told KUNA that ministers of the GCC members have studied a draft resolution on the issue of holding an emergency meeting, which includes condemning Iran for its behavior and its violation of diplomatic laws and conventions by storming and burning some embassies in Tehran. The draft resolution also includes a denunciation of the demagogic action carried out by the Iranians in Mecca and condemnation of the mining of Gulf waters and the hindering of international navigation in the region which has prompted the superpowers' military presence in the Gulf region.

The sources added that the draft resolution includes urging Arab countries to break diplomatic relations with Iran and stresses Arab solidarity with Kuwait against Iranian threats.

Iraq's 'Aziz on Condemnation of Iran
JN241551 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers concluded their second working session today by establishing a formulation committee composed of six Arab countries in addition to the session's chairmanship and the Arab League General Secretariat. This committee will prepare a draft resolution in light of the deliberations being pursued by the Arab foreign ministers.

In a statement following the session, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that there is a very strong unanimity within the conference to condemn and denounce the aggressive actions of the Iranian regime against the Arab countries, particularly against Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

The Arab foreign ministers will hold their third session tomorrow morning to issue a statement in this regard.

Morning Session Concludes 24 Aug
LD241254 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1310 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 24 Aug (SPA) — The Arab League Council session was adjourned this afternoon. This morning's meeting was confined to Arab League delegation heads and permanent delegates.

Following the meeting, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, chairman of the session, stated that the drafting committee, where all the Council resolutions will be formulated, will meet this afternoon. It will convey its recommendations to the conferees when they resume their meetings this evening.

Severance of Ties With Iran Urged

LD242348 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The delegations participating in the emergency Arab League Council session in Tunis have decided to resume their meetings tomorrow morning in a public session. It has also been decided that the committee responsible for formulating the draft final resolution should continue its work tonight.

According to informed sources, the committee has progressed in its work and has been able to prepare a draft resolution which might be submitted following its final formulation to the foreign ministers tomorrow evening. This preliminary draft specifies severance of relations with Iran until it accepts UN Security Council Resolution 598, which was unanimously ratified by the UN Security Council last month and which demands an immediate cease-fire from both sides. The resolution also calls on the UN Security Council to apply the aforementioned recommendation.

These informed sources say that the draft is characterized by firmness toward Iran. The sources, who are close to the emergency meeting, believe that the Arab League Council might approve this preliminary draft without amendment.

Meeting To Continue 25 Aug

LD242241 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Arab League foreign ministers will resume their emergency session tomorrow morning in a closed meeting. Here with the details is news correspondent Lila Najmi:

[Begin recording] The Arab League foreign ministers will resume their emergency meeting at 10 a.m. in a closed session, which is expected to be the last one. After that meeting, the final communique will be announced at a public session.

The formulation committee continued its work until late this evening at the ministerial level. The earlier meetings of this committee had been held at the level of experts.

The committee consists of six countries: Algeria, Tunisia, Kuwait, Sudan, North Yemen, Iraq, the Arab League General Secretariate, and Saudi Arabia, which is presiding over this emergency session. [end recording]

'Not' To Mention Break in Ties

JN251023 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Arab foreign ministers in Tunis are supposed to have begun their discussion of the final communique following the postponement of the final session for almost 1 hour. According to new information received this morning, the question of breaking Arab diplomatic relations with Iran will not be mentioned in the final draft communique in view of the fact that such an action was opposed not only by Syria, Libya, and Algeria, but also by Oman and the UAE

Reports had circulated in the lobbies of the Arab League Council yesterday to the effect that the original text of the draft communique called for severing Arab diplomatic relations with Iran until Iran complies with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 adopted on 20 July 1987. The resolution called for an immediate cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran.

Iraq's 'Aziz, PLO's 'Arafat Meet

JN242020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 24 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, here today.

During their meeting, they reviewed the serious military escalation in the Arab Gulf region and the dangers posed to the security of Arab countries. They also discussed the intensification of Arab efforts, dictated by these developments, to adopt a unified stand to stop the war. Furthermore, they reviewed the work being undertaken to ensure implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in this regard. They also discussed the latest Arab and international developments, particularly the continued siege of the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon and Beirut and the repeated Zionist air and naval attacks against these camps.

Saudi Minister Meets PLO Officials

LD241142 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Aug (SPA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today met with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. During their meeting, the two men reviewed the issues to be examined by the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council, which is scheduled to begin its proceedings later today in Tunis.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the Executive Committee; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Khalil al-Wazir "Abu Jihad," member of the Fatah Central Committee; Hani al-Hasan, [member of the Fatah Central Committee]; and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis.

For the Saudis, the meeting was attended by Isma'il al-Shura,assistant under secretary for political affairs, and Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim, the ambassador of the Kingdom to Tunisia.

FANT Command Communiques Detail Libyan Bombings

Communique No 80

AB250646 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Communique No 80 issued by the FANT High Command on 24 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] After the large-scale offensive launched by the (?forces of) the Libyan colonel on Aozou, where the FANT inflicted a crushing defeat on the annexationist forces, the Libyan Air Force continues its bombing in the northern part of the country. Today, 24 August 1987, the Libyan forces bombed the towns of Aozou and Ounianga, where several innocent civilians were killed. In this regard, Libya's attitude is quite clear. This is proof of its unwillingness to make peace. The FANT has resolved to heroically continue its noble mission until victory is won.

Communique No 81

AB250701 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Communique No 81 issued by the FANT High Command on 24 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] As we have already announced, the Libyan forces today, 24 August 1987, bombed the towns of Aozou and Ounianga, killing some civilians. A Mirage plane was shot down over the town of Ounianga at 1700 local time [1600 GMT]. Valiant Chadian National Armed Forces, forward march! We will not give them any respite!

Communique No 82

AB251420 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1345 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Communique No 82 issued by the FANT High Command on 25 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] Since the capture of Aozou on 8 August 1987, there has not been a single day that the Libyan Air Force has not bombed the following places: Aozou, Bardai, Zouar, Wour, Ounianga, Kouba-Olanga, Fada, and Faya-Largeau. All these towns are bombed either simultaneously or by turns, with napalm, fragmentation bombs, or poisonous gas. Today, 25 August 1987, at about 0740 local time [0640 GMT], Faya-Largeau, capital of the Borkou-Ennedi- Tibesti [BET] region, underwent intensive bombing (?followed by attacks on the BET) by the Libyan Army. This has become unbearable and should be a matter of concern.

Victories recorded by the FANT are sufficiently numerous to move the enemy to lay down its arms and force the (?obstinate) Al-Qadhdhafi to take the path of peace, but alas, the evil persists. Considering this reality, the FANT has no other choice but to move forward in its spirit of commitment, which has already resulted in spectacular results on many occasions. Our cause is a just one and the world should understand us.

Amnesty International Says Ex-Minister Mistreated

AB241734 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, Aug 24 (AFP) — A former government minister in Chad, Gali Ngothe Gatta, is believed to be seriously ill in detention because of ill-treatment, the human rights organisation Amnesty International said here Monday [24 August].

He was arrested in the capital Ndjamena at the beginning of the month, Amnesty said, adding that he might be a political detainee because he opposed some aspects of government policy.

Mr Gatta, who was a minister in the governemnt of ousted President Goukouni Oueddei, returned to Chad last year to become an adviser to Mr Goukouni's successor, Hissein Habre. An economist by training, Mr Gatta was previously an official in the Chad Democratic Front, an anti-Goukouni and anti-Habre party set up in 1985.

Amnesty also reported that there had been "a wave of arrests" in Chad since late May and said it had been told of executions without trial and that people detained in secret had disappeared. It said that more than 20 of those arrested were from the Al-Hadjeria ethnic group in east- central Chad. Reliable sources in neighboring Cameroon said last week that 13 Al-Hadjeria soldiers had deserted there this month and were seeking refugee status.

Habre Opponents Reportedly in Cameroon Camp

AB242245 Paris AFP in French 0940 GMT 23 Aug 87

[AFP correspondent Thierry Masure article: "Chadian Refugees in Poli Faro Camp (Cameroon); Unarmed Rebels"]

[Excerpts] Poli Faro Camp (northern Cameroon), 23 Aug (AFP) — In a lost corner of Cameroon, in Benoue Province, some 8,000 Chadians, refugees at Poli Faro Camp, assert that national reconciliation is a miniature mosaic of Chad on a magnified scale: It comprises Toubous of the north, Arabs from the center, Saras or Kabalais from the south, Muslims, Christians, and pagans, supporters of Goukouni Oueddei, Acheikh ibn Oumar, and Colonel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue. In all, 11 political and military factions are represented there. The only absentees are Hissein Habre's friends, who were the first to fill the camp in January 1982 after moving out of Kousseri (on the Chad-Cameroon border). They returned to Chad 6 months later when their leader made his triumphant entry into Ndjamena. On their way there, they met those who were about to replace them. There is constant movement in and out of the camp.

It is here, and not in the CAR or Sudan where other refugees went, that one finds "the stiff" opponents of the Ndjamena regime, explained Osseni Fassassi, the Cameroon delegate of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). "The former Chadian Administration can be found here, including some educated northerners." [passage omitted]

The Chadian Government considers Poli Faro as an abscess that must be removed and, according to Mr Fassassi, emissaries are sent regularly to Yaounde to make this understood to the

Cameroonians. "There is no obvious reason why the refugees should not return home," it is said at the Chad Embassy in Yaounde. But everyone is treated equally: Goukouni Oueddei and Col Kamougue were also denied permission from Cameroonian authorities to visit the camp to meet their supporters. Poli Faro is also a political pawn and the Yaounde authorities are well aware of this.

Ndjamena Decries Reports

AB242119 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The international press continues to distort the political and military situation in the Republic of Chad. It asserts in reports, with the help of [words indistinct], that there is tribal disunity in our country. [Words indistinct] a certain press organ has singled out a Cameroonian village comprising only Chadians, to prove to the world that national reconciliation in Chad is merely a procedure that has not yet been implemented.

What is the report about? Poli Faro, a northern Cameroon town in Benoue Department, is home for about 9,000 Chadians. According to our fellow press organ, which wrote the report, this situation will make it difficult to unite the sons of Chad. And yet, the Government of the Republic of Chad has made and continues to make extra efforts to unite its sons. The most concrete and obvious way of proving this is by pointing to the institutions established by President Hissein Habre.

It is most regrettable that at a time when the people of Chad are victims of heavy Libyan bombings and when Chadians are filled with a single desire — that of defending their country — a certain press organ has taken the liberty of accusing [words indistinct] the sons of Chad. The organ presents the few refugees of Poli Faro as constituting a miniature Chad comprising sprinklings of Toubous, Arabs, Kouras, Saras, as well as Al-Hadjeria.

No! Let us be honest. One must not give the impression that Chad is literally heterogenous. Which country in the world does not have tribes and ethnic groups? (?Is it surprising) that even outside Chad one may find Chadians from various tribes living together? If today, historical factors have led them to make their home in Poli Taro, there is no need to curse them.

Worse still, our fellow press organ dares to write that the Chadian refugees of Poli Faro, our compatriots, are strongly united, politically. In clear terms, they are reviving the 11 unlucky factions, which carved up a territory of 1,284,000 square km a few years ago. That period is gone forever. It has been buried in the past by the Chadians.

Why do others like presenting our country as a divided country that is irreversibly doomed to remain divided? Christians and Muslims [words indistinct] same country. Where in Chad did the press, especially the Western press, (?gather) all these fanciful ideas? No! Chadian refugees are all over our neighboring countries: Sudan, the CAR, Cameroon, Nigeria, and so on. But most of them have returned and joint efforts are being made and continue to be made by the government and individuals to (?help them return home). The program of national reconciliation has been completed. Traditional disgruntled Chadians, (?according to a Chadian politician), exist all over the country, but this is not extraordinary.

This fuss is merely a diversionary tactic aimed at hiding what is really taking place in Chad, especially the open war declared by Tripoli against our country. On the contrary, the international media and organizations should aim at helping the Government of Chad; a country bruised by several years of war. We believe [words indistinct] that the situation in Chad cannot be compared to the situation in Poli Faro.

GUNT Leaders Meeting in Burkina Faso

For Ouagadougou radio reports on the meeting of GUNT factions in Burkina Faso, see the West Africa section of the 25 August Africa (Sub-Sahara) *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Mubarak Views Democracy, Economic Development

NC241719 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] President Mubarak has asserted the importance of democracy and liberty. During a tour of a number of production sites in Alexandria this morning, the president said that despite some excesses which obstruct the democratic process to a certain extent, it is still much better than similar systems around us. He emphasized that through practice and public awareness on the part of citizens and the press, we will put our democracy on the right path to the benefit of the people.

President Mubarak stressed the importance of increasing production. He said: There is no solution to our problems except through increased production. He affirmed that a growth in production is the only way toward progress in Egypt. He noted that any wage rise that is not accompanied by a growth in production is bound to cause increases in commodity prices.

The president praised the role of both the public and private sectors, affirming that they are two sides of the same coin and that neither can act without the other.

President Mubarak asserted: We can never dispense with the public sector, which performs a basic and primary task. He also noted that the private sector has another function; namely, to complement the role of the public sector, which cannot satisfy all the needs of the country and people.

President Mubarak declared: While I support the public sector, and the development and improvement of its administration, I also support the private sector, believing that it should increase its production and investments and build up industries which the public sector cannot undertake.

The president asserted that our primary sphere of action is agriculture. This is where our future lies, he added, together with industry. He said: For a long time we neglected agriculture and we have now begun to suffer the consequences of this neglect. He noted that recently agriculture has made great progress and added: We attach great importance to agriculture in the current 5-year plan, especially to the new land outside the Nile valley.

President Mubarak welcomed the contribution of Egyptian expatriates to the agricultural development of new desert land. He stated: We will offer more facilities in the areas which do not yet have public utilities. He added: We cannot possibly sell desert land which has been planted with crops at the same prices as desert land which has not yet been developed.

Cabinet, NDP Reshuffle Expected in Nov

JN250649 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Aug 87 pp 1,21

[Text] Cairo — An official Egyptian source has said that President Husni Mubarak intends to undertake a comprehensive Cabinet and NDP reshuffle early in November at the conclusion of a referendum on his nomination for a second term in office.

The source added that all evidence indicates that Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the defense minister, and Dr 'Ali Lutfi, the Consultative Council speaker, will be appointed vice presidents provided Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah maintains his post as defense minister for a period not exceeding 6 months. Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, the chief of staff, will then assume the defense minister's post so that 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah can devote his time to his vice presidential position.

The source added that it has finally been decided to rule out the possibility of appointing People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub as vice president. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, will devote his time to supervising the NDP. He currently holds the post of NDP secretary general. Dr Wali will introduce comprehensive changes into the party at the level of committees and the leadership.

The same source denied that Central Bank Governer Salah Hamid will be a candidate for the post of prime minister. The source added that in the event Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi is replaced, a senior economic figure will assume the premiership. The name of the figure has not yet been revealed. Contacts have taken place with this figure, who is now preparing a working paper that will be presented to the president. The paper deals with ways to solve a number of structural imbalances in the Egyptian economy.

Friction With Israel Over Abu Ghazalah Statements

PM240851 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Aug 87 pp 1,4

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Israel Protests Against Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah Statements"]

[Text] Via its Embassy in Cairo, the Israeli Government yesterday presented a "sharply worded" protest memorandum to the Egyptian authorities over the statements recently made by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, at the fourth Egyptian expatriates conference. In his remarks, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah declared that the Egyptian forces currently garrisoned in Sinai are larger in number than at any time since the Arab-Israeli conflict began and that they are sufficient to defend the Sinai against any sudden attack. In its memorandum Israel has requested an immediate explanation of the meaning of these statements, which it described as a "threat to the future of the peace now existing between Egypt and Israel!" Israel had previously presented three official protests against statements made by Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah before the committee on national security and defense at the People's Assembly in which he declared that Israel is still Egypt's prime enemy, as well as the comments he made during a military exercise by Egyptian Armed Forces and his statement to a Gulf paper. *Al-Wafd* has learned that Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah recently rejected an official invitation from the Israeli Government to visit Tel Aviv next October in order to open a dialogue with Israeli military commanders about the possibility of cooperation between the two states in military fields, war production, and the marketing of arms. Well-informed sources have confirmed that the Defense Ministry

has totally ignored the invitation, which was delivered by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason. The Egyptian Government recently refused to agree to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visiting Cairo to hold military consultations with Egyptian officials on the possibility of "joint cooperation" to protect and safeguard the waters of the Red Sea against potential Iranian threats and the possibility of its having been mined. Egypt had rejected an official Israeli request for the participation of Israeli forces in the "Bright Star-87" maneuvers currently being conducted between Egyptian and U.S. forces in Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Message from Ceausescu
NC241646 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA) — Ion Stoian, envoy of the Romanian president, has stated that he has delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from President Nicolae Ceasescu.

The message concerns bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Stoian noted that during his audience with President Husni Mubarak today, several international issues and ways to promote relations between Egypt and Romania were discussed.

The Romanian envoy arrived in Cairo yesterday, Sunday, on a visit to Egypt expected to last several days.

GDR Economic Delegation Arrives 25 Aug
NC251105 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA) — A GDR economic delegation, led by Mr Schuster, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, and Mrs Kraumer, the official in charge of economic relations with Egypt,arrived in Cairo this morning for a 3-day visit.

The two GDR officials will follow up the implementation of economic agreements signed between Egypt and the GDR. They will also meet with officials from trade organizations and with the Central Bank governor.

Libyan Opposition Claims Tripoli Blackout
NC232121 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2040 GMT 23 Aug 87

[From the "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] Members of the Libyan National Movement have disclosed the reason for a blackout which took place in Tripoli during the second half of July. Some members of this movement had damaged certain parts of the main power station in the capital as part of a planned suicide commando operation aimed at a key post used by the Libyan regime to practice terrorism and persecution of the Libyan people. However, the commando operation was aborted at the last minute in view of the fact that innocent Libyans would have been killed.

Al-Ummah Committee Contacts Southern Parties

JN241545 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA) — The Al-Ummah Party committee in charge of contacting political functionaries on the formation of a national government met with the National Islamic Front yesterday and with some leaders of the southern parties today. The committee handed them the Al-ummah Party's plan for a national government and charter. This was announced today by Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, State Council member and chairman of the committee. He explained that the committee members have sensed that most of the functionaries they contacted support the nationalist trend, considering it the only solution under the current circumstances. He indicated that the committee might conclude its contacts within the next 2 days.

Dr Taj al-Din indicated that the participation of political functionaries, particularly those represented in the Constituent Assembly, is one of the basic points of the charter.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and chairman of Al- Ummah Party, announced the formation of the abovementioned committee the day before yesterday. He did so following the breakup of the coalition between the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party.

Publication of AL-SIYASAH Suspended 24 Aug

JN241538 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA) — The ministerial committee tasked with implementing the emergency law decided today to suspend publication of the daily newspaper *Al-Siyasah* as of today. The suspension is motivated by a tendentious report it published in its 22 August issue in which it leveled accusations against a minister in the Sudanese Government. This violates emergency law provisions.

On the other hand, Public Prosecutor 'Abd al-Mahmud Salih has stated that he will announce the formation of an investigation committee tomorrow. He added that this committee will be given the public prosecutor's prerogatives to investigate the paper's accusations.

Al-Siyasah had mentioned that a key official and minister had disclosed to a foreign diplomat his party's secrets in exchange for the sum of half a million [Sudanese] pounds. The paper had also reported that it possesses a cassette recording of the discussions that took place between the two and that it will publish the contents of the cassette if the minister does not resign or is not dismissed form the government and the party.

Al-Mahdi Contacts Southern Representatives

JN241755 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 24 (SUNA) — The Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today met with south Sudan MP's and reviewed with them national issues, laws to replace the September 1983 laws, and the situation in the south. It has been reported today the encounter comes on the heel of recent contacts between the rebel group of Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) on the one hand and the church leaders, former Nigerian President General Obasanjo, and former Sudanese State Minister at the Foreign Ministry Mr Francis Deng on the other hand. The prime minister has assured south MP's that south Sudan administration will continue on a civilian basis within the spirit of the 1972 Addis Ababa accords. Whatever be the form of the new government the demographic status of the south will be taken into account, he told the MP's.

It is understood that Gen Obasanjo and Mr Deng have been making contacts with the concerned sides in the Sudan in a bid to end the south Sudan conflict.

Al-Mahdi To Address Peace Conference in Kordofan

JN231916 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum Aug. 23 (SUNA) — Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will address here tomorrow the final session of the conference of peace and security in southern Kordofan.

The final statement of the conference will be discussed in the final session after forming an especial committee to take decisions and recommendations.

"The conference is a successful meeting, it put clear suggestions to handle the said issue" the undersecretary of Ministry of Peace and National Constitutional Conference Affairs, 'Abdul-Basit said.

It is worth noting that the conference has opened its sessions here last Tuesday on the threats of security in the region. It has been sponsored by Ministry of Peace and the government of Kordofan Supreme Council member Pacifico Lado attended the conference's sessions [sentence as received].

State Council Chairman Briefed on Security in South

JN241943 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1446 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA) — State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani met with General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, here today. During the meeting. Al-Mirghani was briefed on the security situation in the operation areas in the south, southern Kordofan, and the Al-Damazin military area. He was reassured about stability in these areas. He was also briefed on the Armed Forces' effective role in pursuing the outlaws, controlling roads, and helping relief bodies in dispatching relief material to the needy areas.

Gen al-Fadil said that the SPLM members have become highwaymen, that they are moving in small groups for the purpose of looting, and that they have lost their credibility as a result of continued pressure from the Armed Forces. His excellency also affirmed that the Armed Forces will assist any group of citizens in the southern regions who want to return and settle in their areas. He added that the roads are completely safe, that security

prevails in the city of Waw in the Bahr al-Ghazal region, and that the Armed Forces have not committed any massacre as claimed by some foreign mass media.

Upper Nile Region Governor Issues Ultimatum

JN231548 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1509 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Aug (SUNA) — Masa Majok [name as received], governor of the Upper Nile region, has asked civil servants of the region who are in the national capital to return promptly to the Upper Nile to carry out their duties, except for those who had gone for medical treatment. He threatened with dismissal those who fail to comply with the order. All the employees who had gone to the capital on the claim that security was insufficient in the region have had their salaries suspended, added Majok.

The armed forces in the Upper Nile have the situation under control and are working to defeat rebel forces, who are harassing peaceful citizens to rob them of their food given the prevalent famine, Majok said.

He said the supply situation in the region is reassuring and supplies will be sufficient until early October. He added that he is working to secure needs for the period after that.

Ethiopian Pilot Requests Political Asylum

JN231106 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Aug (SUNA) — An Ethiopian pilot requested political asylum in Sudan after landing, with his military helicopter which belongs to the Ethiopian Air Force, at Shuwak Airport in the eastern region on the morning of 21 August 1987.

This was contained in a report published by the newspaper *Al-Sudani* today. The newspaper indicated that the Ethiopian technican who was accompanying the pilot requested to be allowed to return to his country. The paper added that the helicopter was not carrying any weapons and was on a training mission over the suburbs of Asmara on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border when it sought refuge in Sudan.

The newspaper added that the competent authorities began an immediate investigation into the issue and the two Ethiopians had been detained in one of the military barracks of the Armed Froces in Al-Qadarif in the eastern region.

Authorities Reviewing Request

JN241912 Khartoum SUNA in English 1748 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, August 24 (SUNA) — The Ethiopian pilot Haile Lul who defected lately to Sudan emphasized his desire to be granted political asylum here.

Lul whose plane landed last week in Shuwak base in eastern region said that "life in Ethiopia under the present dictatorship regime has become impossible" and that he did not want to be involved in a war the victims of which were the innocent citizens.

A reliable source explained to SUNA that the concerned authorities were still looking into the application submitted by the pilot to this effect.

Radio SPLA: 30 Government Soldiers Killed in Ambush

EA211928 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Latest reports from Western Equatoria said that 30 enemy soldiers were killed in an SPLA ambush 15 miles away fromMundri, along Mundri-Maridi road, on 13 July 1987. The interception and the attack on the enemy forces among whom many were also killed, was carried out by units of Hadid Battalion under the command of Captain (Maker Tiong Mal). [passage omitted]

Again on 22 July 1987, the same forces of Hadid Battalion executed a deceptive move between Lui and Mundri, causing the death of 20 enemy troops after two separate enemy units unknowingly exchanged fire with one another.

On the same day again a truck carrying enemy soldiers was destroyed and 10 soldiers on board killed after an SPLA patrol tossed a hand grenade onto the vehicle. [passage omitted]

Four more enemy soldiers died on the same day when a truck carrying a platoon was blown up by a landmine. The rest were all injured in the blast. Our correspondent said the landmine had been set in place by the demolition engineers. [passage omitted]

Anyanya-II Delegation Joins Addis Ababa Talks

EA221800 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] A delegation of the Anyanya-II headed by Lieutenant Colonal (David Bidid) and comprising Major (Paul Walkon), Major (David Gothob), and Captain (Garwish Yejrum) arrived in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on 20th of this month to take part in the ongoing meetings between the delegations of SPLM-SPLA and the Sudanese African political parties. The meetings, which started 4 days ago, are being cochaired by Lieutenant Colonel William Nyuan Bany, SPLA chief of staff and head of SPLM-SPLA delegation to the talks, and Dr (Jukeria Wani) of the Sudan Council of Churches, who is coordinator for the Sudanese African parties.

The Anyanya-II delegation shall seize the opportunity of this meeting to confer with SPLA delegation with the view to resolving differences and paving the way to peace and stability in the country. A Radio SPLA correspondent covering the meetings said that the Anyanya-II delegation attended part of yesterday's session.

In a statement given to the corespondent yesterday Lt Col (David Bidid) addressed himself to the forces of Anyanya-II, saying that they had arrived safely and that they were feeling very much at

home among brothers. He further said that he was sure the mission of the delegation would be crowned with positive results which would stop bloodshed and lay a firm foundation for the attainment of peace in the country.

According to our correspondent, a joint communique is expected to be issued at the close of the meeting.

Sinadah, SUNA Representatives Review Problems
JN231222 Khartoum SUNA in English
1030 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 23 (SUNA) — Culture and Information Minister Ma'mun Sinadah received yesterday representatives of *Sudan News Agency* (SUNA) employees and reviewed with them problems impeding work in the agency.

During the meeting the minister expressed sympathy with the employees demands and welcomed their decision of suspending their declared strike.

Sinadah further expressed hope that the committee formed by the ministry to study SUNA problems will submit its report in due course.

The meeting was attended by State Minister of Culture and Information al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum and SUNA General Manager Dr al-Tayyib Haj 'Atiyah.

Cabinet Approves $36 Million Loan From Kuwaiti Fund
JN241317 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA) — In its periodical meeting under Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday morning, the Council of Ministers approved a bill endorsing a loan agreement between the Sudanese Government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The loan of $36 million is allocated for financing three secondary roads in the eastern, central and Kordofan regions.

ALPS Forces Attack Moroccan Positions in Ausert

LD221103 Algiers APS in English 1022 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] SDAR (L.T.) [Liberated Territories] 22/8/87 (APS) — The Saharan fighters violently attacked on Thursday Moroccan positions on the Moroccan defense "wall" in the sector of Ausert, a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information announced. The communique said that "troops of occupation, in rout, were pursued inside the sector" and that an important share of material was destroyed and several Moroccan soldiers were captured.

Military Aircraft Downed

LD221953 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] We begin our news in brief with the Western Sahara, where the Saharan People's Liberation Army downed a Moroccan military aircraft during an attack launched yesterday against the Royal Moroccan forces in the Ausert region. This was stated in a Saharan Information Ministry communique.

195 Soldiers Killed

LD231332 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] A total of 195 Moroccan soldiers were killed and a similar number wounded as a result of the offensive launched by the troops of the Saharan Army last Friday against Moroccan positions in the Ausert sector. This came in a communique issued yesterday by the Saharan Ministry of Information, which added that the Saharan units launched a fierce attack last Friday against Moroccan positions at (Adhem Oum Jloud).

The communique indicated that the Saharan units that carried out the attack occupied Moroccan bases and defense positions on a 25-km-long front of the sixth wall. At the conclusion of these battles, the Saharan troops captured 35 Moroccans, and seized and destroyed large quantities of weapons and military equipment.

The Saharan Information Ministry has already announced that the fighters of the Saharan Army shot down a Moroccan F-5 plane.

KUWAIT

Amiri Envoys To Convey Messages to African Leaders

LD241453 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 24 (KUNA) — Two envoys of H.H. the amir resumed Monday their visits to a number of African countries.

Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad left here today on a tour including six African countries.

Shaykh Nasir told reporters that he will convey messages from H.H. the amir to presidents of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad, within the Kuwaiti drive which began last month to brief leaders of Arab and Islamic states on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf and dangers of the continuation of the ongoing Iraq-Iran war.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Faysal al-Khalid will also start similar visits which include Gambia, Gabon, Uganda, Benin, Sierra Leone and Comoro Islands.

The two envoys' tour is the last stage of conveying messages of H.H. the amir to Arab and Islamic heads of state, in his capacity as chairman of current session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Shaykh Nasir was seen off by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majdi al-Shahin, acting information undersecretary Hamad Yusuf al-Rumi and a number of officials at the ministry.

PDRY

Iranian Envoy Delivers Khamane'i Message, Departs

EA241344 Aden ANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Aden, 23 Aug — Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the Political Department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, left Aden this afternoon. During a visit to our coundry, he delivered a message to Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council, from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message pertained to current developments and the situation in the region.

He was seen off at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

QATAR

Amir Receives Iranian Envoy, Khamene'i Message

JN241053 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Doha, 24 Aug (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. QNA said the message deals with regional developments and bilateral relations. Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the Political Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, handed the amir the message during a meeting today. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, attended the meeting.

SAUDI ARABIA

Interior Minister Interviewed on Mecca Incident

JN240910 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Aug 87 pp 1, 15

[Interview with Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud by editor in chief Ahmad al-Jarallah in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jarallah] Prince Nayif, what happened in Mecca has aroused mixed feelings of sadness and gladness: Sadness because no one wants such incidents to happen, and gladness because Saudi Arabia has realized that Iran is not a state with which patience, forbearance, or indulgence are useful.

[Nayif] Security does not have many colors; it is either black or white. However, we cannot directly approach these colors together. The political administration has its views and its judgment which we respect. Saudi political thinking was that we should deal with Iran on the basis that the current war in the region is abhorrent, and that we are anxious for this war to end. We used to believe that patience with Iran would reflect positively on the Saudi political stand and would enable Saudi Arabia to advise Iran to end the war. We had good relations with Iraq — relations dictated by the Kingdom's consistent stands — but equally we wanted to have good relations with a neighboring country. We wanted to play a role in bringing about peace, an acceptable role — especially as we are a member of several committees mediating with Iran to end the war. Of course, there is a red line that cannot be crossed: I mean there are limits to the Kingdom's patience. When the Iranians overstepped these limits it became necessary to handle the security issue as one with two colors: black and white.

We began to feel that they would like to exploit the pilgrimage season with the aim of diverting its ethics and morals. Ever since 1400 Hegira [1979] they have been yearly escalating their bad conduct, and every time we used to say that as long as they did not succeed in achieving their objectives we must not give them the opportunity to spoil the pilgrimage. The facts and dates of what happened have been officially made public and are no secret now. Let me remind you that last year we received 60 bags in which explosives were professionally hidden. The wheels on the bags were twisted from the weight of the explosives hidden in the bottom of the bags. However, customs and security officials had their suspicions and uncovered the attempt to smuggle in these explosives. The explosives were ready for use and only needed a detonator — which consists of small instruments that appear to have been smuggled in other bags. These explosives are used to blow up bridges and cause fires; they are powerful.

We interrogated the leader of the campaign, his brother, and his assistant. It transpired that the bags belonged to the pilgrims and were packed by the official Iranian authorities who had asked

the Iranian pilgrims to pick the bags up 3 days before traveling to Jeddah. The bags arrived on the last plane from Tehran. Of course we welcomed the pilgrims who were innocent and who were framed. Indeed, we revealed to them what had happened and told them their bags contained explosives. Later we detonated the explosives in their presence so that they would realize the truth. Of course, everyone was angry with what happened. All these actions are indisputably documented.

When we referred the matter to the custodian of the two holy mosques he said the pilgrimage means a great deal for Saudi Arabia, which has had a special approach to it ever since King 'Abd al-'Aziz unified the Arabian peninsula. The custodian of the two holy mosques asked that what happened should not be made public so that the pilgrims would not be disturbed, particularly since they [the Iranians] had not succeeded in achieving their objectives.

As security authorities we cannot but respect the political decision of the government and its leaders, a decision based on considerations that are based on the Kingdom's desire to strengthen relations between area countries and their neighbor, which beats the drums of war and refuses to respond to the calls for peace. So what happened was not made public, and the leader of the campaign and his brother were detained after admitting prior knowledge of the bags and their contents. They acknowledged that they brought the bags to hand them over to certain persons. We searched for these persons but could not find them, for it appears their names were different from the names known to the leaders of the campaign. They disappeared after the bags and their contents were discovered.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness, you said that since 1400 Hegira they have been practicing such acts. How did Saudi security allow this to continue?

[Nayif] We placed them under control. We also knew their moves. However, they develop their methods each year. In the past, they smuggled in pictures, placards, and leaflets but we seized them, and things carried on normally. They developed their methods recently. They brought what they needed into the country in diplomatic pouches. They also brought with them tailors, painters, and photographers which they needed for their actions. We believed it was only a matter of delivering speeches. We rejected this but we did not resist so that no riots would take place and the other guests would not be disturbed.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, it is said you gave them permission to stage the march.

[Nayif] This did not happen nor will it happen because the security system here does not allow gatherings or demonstrations. If we allow the Iranian pilgrims to march and demonstrate then it will also be the right of Iraq, which accepted peace and enjoys world support, to ask permission for its pilgrims to march. The Iraqi pilgrims, like the Iranians, have something to say. What the Iraqi pilgrims would say might be accepted because they belong to a country that has accepted peace. Meanwhile, the Iranian pilgrims belong to a country that has declared war not only on Iraq but also on the entire world. We did not allow them to march nor did we give them permission to do so. They had two gatherings: the first in Medina, which was called "the gathering of unity"; and the second in Mecca, called "the gathering of disavowal."

Our instructions to the security men were to respect the pilgrims, including the Iranians, and to maintain security without harming any pilgrim whether he be Iranian or non-Iranian. They of course exploited this flexibility in security. We tolerated this situation as long as it stayed within certain bounds. However, when matters reached the stage they did during this year's pilgrimage, the security services had to intervene, and it was an intervention in which no fire arms nor teargas were used. Had they succeeded in reaching the mosque, disastrous consequences would have resulted. The security service had the situation under control within half an hour. The incident began at 1630 hours. Until 1830 we faced, in terms of security, what we face each year. As the time for the evening prayer approached — a time which seemed to be calculated in advance — the Iranian pilgrims moved toward the mosque in an attempt to surround the security men who were armed only with sticks. Within half an hour, that is before the evening prayer, the march was over. Regrettably, the march left victims behind. The victims might have been more had the marchers reached the holy mosque. The citizens helped the security men. The citizens used the same weapons that were brought in by the Iranians, including stones, knives, sticks, and other things which the world has seen on television and in other media. The pilgrims were witnesses to what took place.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness the prince, what did they [the Iranians] want precisely?

[Nayif] They wanted to spoil the pilgrimage season by carrying out a massacre at the holy mosque. They imagined that the Islamic states would then criticize the Kingdom's stand because it was not able to supervise the holy places. They have failed in their war with Iraq. They have failed to export the revolution and in many other things. They came to Mecca to attempt this because they believe the Kingdom must be punished for its continuing support for Iraq and stands against the war that are based on many considerations.

The Iranians wanted to spoil the pilgrimage season. We had to deny them this opportunity. We have learned from political experiences that the world cares for the fait accompli, not for justifications. That is, if Iran succeeded in what it sought, the Islamic world would blame us for its success. It would not care about our justifications if complications occurred, God forbid. Saudi security succeeded in halting the Iranian objective. This success is important since the pilgrimage season is a unique season on the international level. More than 1 million people assemble in one place. Imagine if a disturbance occurs and expands to involve this huge number of people. Sometimes, a riot among soccer fans may result in complications which may call for the announcement of a state of emergency and martial laws. So what about here? The matter was handled in a way that received a kind of compliment not only from Islamic states, but also from other world states which do not want to see massacres committed in other parts of the world. Indeed, we have received a great deal of appreciation and compliments from many states for our handling of the incident.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, how does Iran officially explain what happened?

[Nayif] We talk with them officially every year. We tell them please do not repeat what happened the previous year. They used to say these acts were caused by individuals and were not official. They wanted to show good will and the custodian of the two holy mosques accepted the mediation of some official Iranian quarters for the release of last year's leader of the Iranian pilgrimage mission who brought bags laden with explosives. We do not care about the Iranian media clamor. After the acceptance of the mediation and the release of the Iranians, Iranian mass media interpreted this noble deed as if it were the result of pressure by the Saudi people on their political leadership to release the criminals. Of course, these claims do not upset Saudi Arabia. What is really aggravating is what happened in Mecca this year when Iran crossed over the red line set before it. We thought the exchange of visits might lead to cooperation to end this crazy war and to cooperation on the international level, such as in oil issues. In past years they were visited by the Saudi foreign minister and we received their oil minister. We apprised them of what happens in Mecca every pilgrimage season and of the conduct that should be followed by the Iranian pilgrims, who act under official authorities' orders. Naturally, that was within the framework of our policy of containment which presupposes that the Kingdom can play a role to end this crazy war. This must not be understood as a weakness on our part; we deal with the pilgrimage and its issues in a different manner.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, what do you mean by a different manner?

[Nayif] Among other things, pilgrimage means safe and easy passage. Before the unification of the Kingdom, going to Mecca meant paying taxes and exposing oneself to plunder and even murder. However, since King 'Abd al- 'Aziz, may God rest his soul in peace, took over the affairs of the Arabian peninsula, including the supervision of the pilgrimage, our principle has been to look after the welfare of the guests of God regardless of race, color, or nationality. As I said, the pilgrimage is a unique event. Such a large gathering does not often occur in other countries. The pilgrimage takes place every year and the numbers are increasing. Therefore, Saudi security organs must be alert in dealing with all aspects of the pilgrimage. This matter must be clear to Iran when it sends its pilgrims.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, can the Kingdom prevent Iranian pilgrims from coming to Mecca?

[Nayif] This is a common Islamic concern. It is up to the nations of the Islamic world to decide. We have never prevented anyone from coming. However, we are firm on security matters. We were able to stop the Iranian procession. We could have been firmer and harsher. However, the instructions of the custodian of the two holy mosques were to remain tolerant and patient. When the intention is to harm, then we can only be very strict on security. We believe Iran has learned its lesson. Of course, the uproar in the Iranian media will continue but we are accustomed to this. The main thing is for Iranian bragging not to harm our security — the security of the holy places and Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, it is said that Iran has succeeded in infiltrating some elements among the pilgrims and that these elements are now deployed in different parts of the Kingdom to carry out sabotage acts. Is this true?

[Nayif] Border security is very tight. After the pilgrimage, pilgrims leave the Kingdom from the same port of entry. The movement of pilgrims is also restricted within the Mecca-Medina zone. Any movement outside this zone requires the permission of the interior minister himself. A pilgrim may want to visit a relative in another part of the Kingdom. Such cases are dealt with individually and humanely. Iranian pilgrims and others are under surveillance until they leave the country.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, it is said that the fire in one of the gas plants was the work of the elements that infiltrated the country?

[Nayif] What happened was officially announced and in detail. The official statement expressed some reservation. It said the incident was most likely caused by a short circuit due to high pressure. However, if the investigation reveals otherwise, the results will be announced. Therefore, if the Iranian agents happen to be behind the incident, this would only increase world vengeance against them. Rest assured, the Kingdom's policy is to reveal the facts. There is nothing to make us hide them. We are an open nation. Someone may succeed in carrying out a sabotage act, but the incident will be dealt with and the culprit will be punished. We cannot be stricter on matters of national security. The security organs must remain constantly alert.

[Al-Jarallah] Prince Nayif, when tension between the Kingdom and Iran rises, the world refers to some of your citizens who are of the same sect as the Iranians as though they can be easily infiltrated.

[Nayif] We hear about this, but it is contrary to the facts. When the Mecca events occurred the Shi'ite citizens in the eastern region were more annoyed than anyone else. They went to the amirate's headquarters and expressed their indignation at what happened. They expressed their indignation with great bitterness. The law in the Kingdom does not exempt anyone when the matter involves harming the state's security or its political entity, be they Shi'ite or Sunni. Everyone is equal before the law and will be equally punished for any transgression or violation, so that the country's security and stability can be safeguarded.

[Al-Jarallah] Prince Nayif, let me be more frank with you. It has been said that Iran has recruited some Shi'ite citizens.

[Nayif] A few people — a very small number of people — were misled. They were arrested. Some of them are outside the country. They explained the circumstances of their being misled and have been released. The custodian of the two holy mosques has ordered that even those outside the country be pardoned. The matter is over. The number of people involved is small. It happens in some countries that some of its citizens follow the wrong path. They do not necessarily belong to a particular sect. There are no Shi'ite political prisoners in the Kingdom's prisons — there are only prisoners involved with civilian cases or those who have

committed other types of crimes. There are absolutely no [Shi'ite] political prisoners — and I reaffirm this.

[Al-Jarallah] Prince Nayif, but they say that your prisons are full of Shi'ite political prisoners.

[Nayif] Not a single prisoner — and I reaffirm that. We treat all citizens on the basis that they are Saudi citizens. Anyone who commits a crime is punished. However, there are no Shi'ite political prisoners in Saudi prisons.

[Al-Jarallah] Prince Nayif, it has been said that after the Mecca incident you ordered Saudi princes abroad to return home because of Iranian threats.

[Nayif] Iranian threats are made publicly. They threaten embassies, individuals, and members of the ruling family. Yes, we called for precautions, not only for princes but for everyone. Even though in their official, public threats they concentrate on members of the ruling family, we have asked everyone to be cautious. They are attacking the entireworld. It is expected for them to attack us.

[Al-Jarallah] Prince Nayif, do you believe Iran is capable of infiltrating your home front?

[Nayif] Not that easily. Saudi society abhors what is happening in Iran. Security in Saudi Arabia is represented not only by the official security service but also by the Saudi citizen. This is confirmed by what happened in Mecca when the people cooperated in stopping the sedition and prevented its advance to the Mecca mosque.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, the Kingdom, like other world states and the region's states in particular, has experienced a state of economic slowdown and reduction in income. Some believe this has had a bad effect on security. Does this apply to Saudi Arabia?

[Nayif] In Saudi Arabia there had been a noticeable influx of money, as well as a need for establishing an infrastructure. In this atmosphere many social arrangements and facts appeared and the incomes of individuals changed. This is natural. What is not natural is that some individuals thought that this temporary state was permanent and continued speculating on land prices and other means to make quick, large profits. Some individuals arranged their affairs by taking into consideration that it was temporary, similar to what happens in developed states which experience limited booms. Those who did so were not affected by the recession. Others who were accustomed to exaggerated expenditure and profits must have faced the consequences. However, the economic condition of the people here is good. Salaries were not suspended or reduced. Public services were not reduced and everything is normal. Therefore, the state of recession we experienced restored calmness in many cases. It did not have any negative effect on public scurity. On the contrary, during the economic boom there were some problems. Now there is a state of relaxation. Recession was noticeable because of the decrease in income, but it occurred at a time when many important infrastructure projects in the Kingdom were completed. Even agriculture prospered when the recession began. Now things have begun to improve regarding the general income of the state, and we as a state have many things to achieve.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness Prince Nayif, I will further clarify my question. Some believed that the decrease in income will create a gap for conflicts among those who have different incomes.

[Nayif] Such an assumption does not apply because the essential needs are available for all people. The ordinary citizen here possesses what makes him considered rich in other countries. Therefore, such empty talk is not in line with the state of affairs here. I sometimes go to the desert and find people driving luxurious cars and possessing other luxury items that are not available even to citizens in countries which have exceeded us in civilization and advancement.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness, how do you view the reality of security cooperation among GCC states? How do you view it now? You had a previous opinion in this regard a few years ago. Is it better now or what?

[Nayif] All aspects of cooperation among GCC states are now better than they were in the past. A qualitative development has occurred on the level of relations. Perhaps this is a result of the feeling that separate action is no longer useful. Before our integrated social circumstances imposed this form of cooperation, interests were calling on us to carry out joint action. The international circumstances and variables necessitate further and better comprehensive cooperation.

With regard to security cooperation I hope nothing will prevent security men from moving between the GCC states. I hope we will reach a stage when security cooperation will not be dealt with through diplomatic channels. I will be very satisfied when I find that GCC interior ministers do not need to go through the foreign ministries in their dealings, with respect to the diplomatic channels. Why should correspondence not be direct not only on the level of the interior ministers but also on the level of security directors? Security should be a common issue in all the GCC states as though each state is an extension of the other in terms of security. In this case there should be security cooperation in gatherings that have common agreements such as the EC and West European countries. We now have a spontaneous kind of cooperation on many levels. This cooperation must be organized in this part of the world, which is considered a target. Many parties are attempting to deprive this area of its stability. I call for more cooperation in the field of security so that when the ambassadors of the GCC states visit the interior ministers these visits will be cordial instead of to convey messages from their countries' interior ministers. The citizens in all the GCC states should feel they can enjoy their rights wherever they are and perform their duties anywhere whether they are in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, or Bahrain.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness, this might be the last question. Does Iran really stand against Israel and the United States as slogans they raised in Mecca say?

[Nayif] How can it be against Israel when it is the state that dealt directly with it? How can it be against the United States and call

for boycotting it when its weapons and goods are from the United States and when those who came here, incited riots, and called for boycotting U.S. goods carried back home with them two plane loads of these U.S. goods? This is political hypocrisy which we can no longer tolerate. They talk about the great satan, and that great satan is in the Gulf waters. Why do they not clash with it? Why are they screaming about Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states while the United States and Israel are in front of them? Let them put the great satan on trial. The Iranian people are misled. However, we will disclose to them the deeds of their rulers.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness, do you believe that their threats to your country and to the Gulf states are serious or not?

[Nayif] They cannot carry out their threats. They might succeed in causing an explosion here or there but the damage will be limited. However, the punishment for such acts will of course be tough in Saudi Arabia. In terms of security we believe that we should always be alert to deprive them of any opportunity. Security strength means discovering the crime before it happens. This is what we will do.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Zayid Receives Iranian Envoy, Khamene'i Message

JN241801 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Aug (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a verbal message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with developments in the region and relations between the two countries. Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the Political Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, conveyed the message when he was received today by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The Iranian official is currently visiting a number of states in the region.

AL-ITTIHAD on Results of President's Syrian Visit

JN250703 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Damascus — Informed diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital have affirmed to *Al-Ittihad* that the visit to Damascus by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has important dimensions regarding Arab and bilateral relations. The sources said envoys from a number of Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Libya, were in Damascus during his highness' visit to Damascus. TheLibyan envoy conveyed to his highness a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi on clearing the Arab atmosphere.

The sources affirmed that the importance of his highness' visit to Syria will be reflected in three important directions: first, Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. The sources said the Jordanian Government will follow up the efforts of his highness the UAE president and coordinate with him on formulas for an understanding between Damascus and Baghdad through Jordanian Government envoys to both Damascus and Baghdad. Second, UAE-Syrian-Algerian mediation between Saudi Arabia and Iran to reduce the tension between them following the Mecca incidents. This mediation will soon be implemented and is expected to emerge with important results regarding relations between the two countries. The sources said it is expected that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will visit Tehran soon to discuss the issue of mediation with Iranian officials. Third, clearing the Arab atmosphere in preparation for convening an emergency Arab summit, especially in view of the fact that the explosive situation in the Gulf is strongly imposing itself on the Arab arena. This is in order to a adopt a unified, cohesive stand on current developments.

The sources affirmed that his highness the UAE president is preparing the atmosphere through intensive contacts with Syria and other Arab countries to convene an emergency Arab summit. This response will emerge during the Arab foreign ministers' conference scheduled to be held in Tunis today. Economic, trade, and tourist coordination between the two countries is among the important results on the level of bilateral relations. This was confirmed by sources of Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm who held a lengthy meeting with Nasir al-Nuways, UAE Finance Ministry under secretary. They discussed economic affairs in Syria in depth and ways for the UAE to benefit from investment opportunities in Syria. The sources said important decisions on cooperation between the two countries will emerge soon to activate this cooperation. They did not rule out the possibility that the Syrian minister of economy would visit the UAE to discuss details of economic cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth noting that during his highness' visit to Syria the Syrian Government decided to reduce the tariff and taxes on transit goods that pass through Syria to the Gulf states by 30 percent for 1 year. This measure is intended to encourage the import of goods through Syrian ports. It is known that the Gulf states stand to benefit the most from this decision because they import their goods through the Mediterranean across Syrian and Jordanian territories.

Diplomatic sources in Damascus did not conceal the fact that the visit by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan ranks among the most influential and effective visits on Arab developments, especially in the next stage. The coming days will confirm this.

Trade Minister Leaves for U.S. Visit 24 Aug
JN241309 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Bahdad, 24 Aug (INA) — Iraqi Trade Minister Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih left for the United States today on a visit lasting several days. During the visit, the trade minister will discuss bilateral economic and trade relations with U.S. officials.

Economic, Trade Talks With Turkey Begin 25 Aug
JN250955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA) — Iraqi-Turkish talks on economic, trade, and technical cooperation began in Baghdad today.

The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Abu Talib 'Abd al-Muttalib, Ministry of Trade under secretary and deputy chairman of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-Turkish Committee for Trade, Economic, and Technical Exchange. The Turkish side was led by Yawaz Ginuy, under secretary at the Ministry of the Treasury and Foreign Trade [name and title as received] and chairman of the Turkish side to the committee.

The two sides reviewed the developed relations of cooperation between the two countries as well as ways to strengthen them and follow up what was implemented from the minutes of the committee's previous session held in Turkey in April 1987.

The Iraqi side included representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Finance, Transport and Communications, Industry, Oil, and Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, while the Turkish side included representatives from the counterpart ministries.

Communique No 2,793 Details 23-24 Aug Combat
JN241650 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,793 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces receive the Islamic New Year. They do so while asking Almighty God to preserve their leader, President Saddam Husayn, grandson of the merciful prophet, on the road to victory. They also ask God to continue granting us both the grace of freedom and the giving of the revolution. Every fighter among the commanders, officers, and other ranks renews the pledge on this honorable occasion to continue to proceed on the road of struggle. While doing so, he is inspired by the spirit of true Islam and the heroism of the great forefathers to defeat the enemies of both Arabism and Islam and to defend the true religion and the holy lands in the face of the rancorous, anti-Arab Khomeyniite clique. May our Iraq enjoy well-being year after year under our faithful, struggler leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him.

Following are the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. Our bold helicopter gunships carried out 30 combat missions against enemy weapon emplacements and concentrations of its scoundrels in the operational sectors. They inflicted further losses on the Khomeyniites. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. A courageous force of one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan launched a successful raid against a number of enemy positions opposite it. The force managed to reach its targets and, with heavy fire, it completely destroyed the enemy positions. The force killed 12 aggressors and wounded a number of them. The force then returned safely to base. In other areas of the sector one 107-mm launcher and a machinegun were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

3. One 60-mm mortar, a large vehicle, and two infantry positions were destroyed in the I Army Corps sector.

4. A number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded; a shovel [preceding word in English] and an infantry position were destroyed; and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. The enemy engineering effort was pounded and two weapon emplacements and an observation post were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. As part of the cowardly practices of the criminal Iranian rulers, their futile forces shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery. Two civilians were wounded. The residential complex of (Bimalik) and the village of Nur al-Din in Qal'at Dizah were also shelled. One woman was wounded. May our wounded have a speedy recovery, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 August 1987

IDF Spokesman 'Knows Nothing' of Syrian Rocket Fire

TA250845 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] A Syrian missile battery yesterday fired two rockets at an Israeli military aircraft flying over the eastern sector of Lebanon. The planes were not hit. Lebanese sources informed Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, of this incident. Reports on the matter were published this morning in Beirut newspapers.

Reacting to these reports, the IDF spokesman said that he knows nothing about the firing of any missiles at Air Force planes flyingover Lebanon.

6 IDF Soldiers Wounded By Mines in Lebanon

TA251209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Six IDF soldiers were wounded in the security zone of southern Lebanon after hitting a mine. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that two were critically wounded, one sustained medium injuries, and three were slightly wounded. Foreign correspondents in Tyre have reported that the IDF patrol entered a mine field planted by the South Lebanese Army.

Further Reportage on Lavi Future Debate

IDF To Accept Decision

TA241659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] During a meeting today between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and members of the IDF General Staff, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that the IDF is not intervening in the decisions of the political echelon and will accept whatever decision is made. He noted, however, that everything proposed by the IDF is based upon the most relevant professional and military judgment.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal has reported that the Lavi was only mentioned indirectly during the prime minister's visit to the General Staff. Deputy Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that work on IDF alternatives had lasted for a long time and was concluded only after lengthy and comprehensive deliberations.

Mr Shamir stated that the IDF must avoid being burned by any public controversy. He noted, however, that the IDF's reliability has never been doubted.

Peres, Rabin, Nisim Talk

TA250826 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
25 Aug 87 pp 1, 9

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The Lavi jetfighter project is about to die. A scheme for scrapping the Lavi, and saving the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] from a crisis, was the focus of intensive talks held yesterday by Vice Premier Shim'on Peres, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The scheme emerging from the talks is based on the scrapping of the Lavi in its present form, and involves a package being called "Lavi for the Year 2000." The name is intended to help the IAI save face and persuade some of the project's supporters to back the new scheme. The package will consist of three main elements.

Israel will participate in the development of the next generation of America's F-16 jetfighter. The Pentagon proposed such participation as long ago as 1986.

The budget of IAI will be increased by $100 million. This will finance basic research in future aircraft technologies -- research for the "Lavi 2000." But research will also extend to some of the weapon systems the IDF needs. The extra $100m. will come from American military aid which would be convertible into shekels for spending locally. The U.S. has offered to raise such funding from $300 to $400m. if the Lavi is scrapped.

Israel will ask the U.S. to allow it to participate in the development of the technology of the ATF, the American jetfighter of the future. This also will justify calling the scheme "Lavi for the Year 2000."

While the Defence Ministry was admitting by last night that the gap between Peres and Rabin had narrowed, the Treasury said it needed more details about the proposal before it commented.

Informed sources said yesterday that the scheme being developed would serve as a "ladder" which would be "used to go down from the Lavi." They indicated the formula would prevent large-scale dismissals from IAI and enable the company to continue work connected to advanced aircraft, these being Peres's main concerns.

The deliberations on the future of the project and Peres's proposals are to continue today. Peres will probably present them to Prime Minister Shamir this week, at a meeting to be attended by Rabin and Nisim as well. Such a meeting, the sources hoped, will end with a resolution to adopt the scheme. [passage omitted]

Peres Views Lavi Alternatives

TA250827 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug p 1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur and Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has apparently reached the conclusion that there is no alternative to stopping the Lavi project. Peres' current efforts are aimed at reaching arrangements and agreements that would minimize the damage to the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI].

Yesterday Peres met with Defense Minister Yetzhaq Rabin to hear the defense establishment's position with regard to his "Lavi 2000" proposal. The meeting was also attended by the chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff, the heads of the Air Force, the head of the IDF Planning Branch, and the Defense Ministry director general. Rabin explained to Peres that he rejects the

proposal and that the defense establishment believes that a large investment in research and development of a future plane without a precise definition of its purposes is inappropriate. Rabin also told Peres that the possibility of producing F-16 planes by the IAI, among the alternatives proposed by Dov Zakheim, was examined and found to be too expensive.

Other ideas raised to decrease the damage to the IAI once the Lavi project is canceled deal with a considerable increase in the number of F-16 parts produced in Israel over and above what Israel already produces for General Dynamics, the producer of the F-16.

From the remarks made by the vice prime minister it was possible to infer that in the end he will not take a stand against the Army's position. [passage omitted]

IAI Rejects Peres Proposal

TA251519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has decided to reject completely the proposal raised by Mr Shim'on Peres that a Lavi aircraft designed for the year 2000 be developed. Sources from the IAI board of directors told our military correspondent that a careful examination of the proposal and a review of the IAI's current situation has led to the conclusion that the Peres suggestion would not solve the IAI's problems. Therefore, it will be rejected.

Paper Speculates on Upcoming Visits to USSR

TA240755 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] Next month the Soviet Union will apparently announce the date for inviting Minister 'Ezer Weizman on an official visit to Moscow. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will be visiting Moscow for a few days next month. In any event, Weizman's visit will take place after 'Arafat's.

Political circles believe that there is a link between the Soviet decision to postpone the visit of the delegation of Knesset members and the successful talks held 10 days ago in Bonn with Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser.

It would seem that in the wake of the talks with Dr Novik, Moscow had second thoughts about whether the invitation to the Knesset members would have the desired effect. In view of the fact that any contact they hold with Israel raises eyebrows in the Arab countries, the Soviets apparently opted for giving priority to matter-of-fact and direct contacts with government officials over less relevant and more ceremonial talks.

Labor Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am may be invited to the Soviet Union instead of the delegation of Knesset members.

Rabin To Pay Official Visit to FRG in 2 Weeks

TA211034 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Aug 87 p A1

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is scheduled to make an official visit to the FRG in 2 weeks as the guest of the German defense establishment. He will tour Army units and meet with central figures in the Bonn Government. This has been reported by Jerusalem sources.

Rabin's visit is scheduled to last 4 days and will focus on areas of cooperation between the two countries' defense establishments.

This is the first visit to the FRG by an Israeli defense minister. Rabin will also visit holocaust memorials. He will be accompanied by the Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command and a holocaust survivor.

French Prime Minister Reportedly To Visit 1 Nov

TA241909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac will arrive in Israel on 1 November on an official visit.

An Israeli diplomatic source in Paris said that Chirac's visit will last 3 days. This has been reported by our correspondent Gid'on Kouts.

Shamir Comments on Saudi Support for Jordan

TA241855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that Saudi support for Jordan would promote negotiations between Jordan and Israel. Saudi support, Shamir added, would weaken the PLO's influence and give Jordan the support it seeks from another Arab country in order to enter the peace process. Shamir made these remarks to U.S. Senator Warren Rudman, who is visiting Israel as a guest of the United Jewish Appeal. The prime minister expressed his opposition to the sale of advanced weapons to Arab countries, except for Egypt.

The U.S. senator noted that Saudi Arabia has legitimate fears for its security, and Shamir's reply was that the U.S. show in the Persian Gulf is somewhat surprising. [sentence as heard]

Iraqi Industry Minister Arrives 24 Aug

JN242026 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1450 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Amman, 24 Aug (PETRA) — Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid, Iraqi minister of industry, has praised Jordan — king, government, and people — for its Arab stands in general. He also praised Jordan's distinguished and noble Arab stand toward the fraternal Iraqi people in their defensive war against Iranian aggression.

In a statement to PETRA on arrival in Amman today, the Iraqi minister said his visit to Jordan is aimed at studying the progress of the Jordanian-Iraqi company for industry. He said he hopes that an advanced phase of cooperation and industrial integration will be achieved between the two countries.

The Iraqi minister added that the two sides will review the company's existing projects in an attempt to establish new, important, and strategic industries whose impact will not only affect the two countries but also the region in general. He said that he will hold talks with Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply, on developing trade and economic cooperation and exchange between the two countries. He said that during the visit the two sides will review the progress of joint Arab action and current preparations for the meetings of the Council of Arab Organization for Industrial Developments. These meetings will be held at the ministerial level in Algiers at the end of October.

Al-Khatib Departs for Tunis Information Meetings

JN251141 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Amman — Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib left Amman for Tunis at noon today leading the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Arab information ministers conference which will begin in Tunis on Thursday. An Arab experts committee began preparations for this conference yesterday.

AL-DUSTUR: Severing Iranian Ties 'Practical Option'

JN250822 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Aug 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Toward a Unified Diplomatic Step"]

[Text] While the Arab League Council is continuing its emergency meetings in the Tunisian capital amid great Arab hopes of reaching a unified Arab stand to confront crisis developments, the Saudi proposal which calls for severing Arab diplomatic ties with Iran looks like one of many practical options that are capable of crystallizing a unified and effective stand in the face of Iranian ambitions.

After the threats leveled by the Iranians against the Arabs reached an unacceptable degree of provocation and indifference, and after Tehran's rulers began to encroach upon the sovereignty of some Arab Gulf states, it has become illogical to see Arab states maintain diplomatic ties with Iran as if all of this aggression, these threats, and this provocation were not worthy of any reassessment, even if this reassessment is restricted to the domain of diplomatic ties.

Hence, we can regard the Saudi proposal as a call for rectifying an erroneous situation in which some Arab states have dealt with the Iranian aggression as if it were of no concern to them, thereby stripping the bloody protracted war of all of its clear, pan-Arab dimensions — which has served Iranian ambitions and further bolstered Tehran's obstinacy in dealing with all proposed solutions which sought to end the war through peaceful means.

There is no doubt that a favorable, unanimous Arab response to such a proposal will constitute a large-scale political defeat inflicted on the Iranian side on the one hand, and will, on the other, help achieve a unified Arab stand that can call to mind bright pictures from the history of Arab solidarity.

The Arab League Council which is discussing a number of proposals and means that are capable of confronting many existing challenges, foremost of which is the challenge represented by Iran's insistence on continuing its war against fraternal Iraq and also by its determination to persist with its campaigns of blackmail and provocation against the Arab Gulf states, is called upon to publicly articulate its final statement regarding the proposal put forward by fraternal Saudi Arabia. And to be more precise, the Council is called upon to take a unified, practical stand or at least one practical step in this regard since this would be much better than the sweet words and the cunning and rhetorical stands which have proven that they cannot help bring a solution or delay any possible aggression.

Organization Releases Video of FRG Hostage

NC250514 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The abductors of FRG hostages Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt delivered a videotape to a foreign news agency in Beirut last night. The video showed Schmidt reading a 4-minute statement in which he calls on the FRG to free Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, who is being detained in the FRG, in exchange for his freedom and that of Cordes. The video was not accompanied by any statement from the kidnappers, and Schmidt did not identify his abductors. [passage omitted]

Syrians Reportedly Fire Rockets at Israeli Planes

NC242124 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2112 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports from Beirut, Syrian forces this afternoon fired two rockets at two Israeli F-16 planes which were flying at low altitude near Rashayya al-Wadi village in the Al-Biqa'plain in eastern Lebanon near the Syrian border. Eyewitnesses said that the Syrian forces along the Lebanese-Syrian border fired the two rockets at the Israeli planes before the latter could enter Syrian airspace. According to these reports, the planes were not hit; they quickly turned back in the direction of Israel.

Syrian Officer Confirms Fire

NC251450 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Syria confirms and Israel does not know. A Syrian officer in western Al-Biqa' has stated that Syrian missiles were fired yesterday at Israeli warplanes which were flying over the area. An Israeli military spokesman, however, said that he is unaware that any missiles were fired at Israeli planes flying over Lebanon.

9 Israelis Reported Injured in Resistance Attack

NC251040 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon (Aug 25) — A bomb blast wounded nine Israeli soldiers patrolling the "security zone" controlled by Israel in south Lebanon, a Lebanese militia source in the area said.

Three of the soldiers were seriously injured in the explosion, which was triggered by remote-control as two armored cars neared an Israeli position in the village of Kafr Tibnit, 77 kilometers (48 miles) southeast of Beirut, the source said.

He added that three Israeli helicopter gunships raked the area with gunfire in the wake of the attack.

Elsewhere, Lebanese resistance fighters attacked an Israeli position and a position of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia early Tuesday near Al-Majidiyah, deep in the "security zone" about two kilometers (1.3 miles) from the Israeli border, the militia source said.

Israel has acknowledged neither attack.

SLA Fires at Irish Convoy; Soldier Beaten Up

NC242136 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] A UNIFIL source said today that troops of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] had fired at an Irish convoy near Ra's al-Bayyadah in the security belt area. The convoy was on its way to Al-Naqurah, the UNIFIL general headquarters. The source also noted that five men used the butts of their rifles to beat up an Irish soldier who was on guard duty near one of the Irish contingent's checkpoints.

Paqraduni Comments on Presidential Elections

NC211212 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has stated that Dr Samir Ja'ja' has not been nominated for the presidency but that his election would mean that Lebanon had entered a phase leading to a solution. He said: We will not nominate Ja'ja' until we ensure the conditions for his success. We prefer to be strong electors rather than weak candidates.

In an interview with the *Al-Masirah* magazine, Paqraduni noted that the Lebanese Forces have not yet chosen their presidential candidate; however, they will wage an election battle with their own candidate. He said that General 'Awn is not the Lebanese Forces' candidate and that there is a U.S. tendency to support him.

Paqraduni stated that Syria's plan involves [implementing] the tripartite agreement. Its candidate is Elie Hubayqah and its plan is to control all areas militarily. He said: Syria is behaving as if it had reached the zenith of its might and fears that conditions contrary to its interests will develop. It would prefer that elections be held as soon as possible so that it will be in the best position.

Paqraduni added that President al-Jumayyil and Ja'ja' agree on goals but differ on methods. He said that the demand for a government of independence is not a passing one and that such a government will definitely be formed before the end of President al-Jumayyil's term. He also asserted that Halat Airport will be opened.

Paqraduni affirmed that the Lebanese Forces are the political heirs of [Camille] Sham'un and that the Lebanese Front will wage a battle for the election of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies against Speaker al-Husayni.

Noting that the presidency is the last international symbol of Lebanese independence, he stated: Creating a vacuum is not in our interest. He also noted that the Lebanese Forces will lead the revolution and that the time for it is near. He called for a general strike until a new government is formed.

In the economic and financial field, Paqraduni called for replacement of the governor of the Bank of Lebanon. He indi-

cated that the dollar now has no ceiling and rejected lifting subsidies on fuel. He said that the Lebanese Forces will not let citizens in the eastern areas be without gasoline if the government fails to import it. He expressed the Lebanese Forces' readiness to unilaterally turn over ports in the eastern area to a new government.

Al-Jumayyil Holds Meeting on Government, Economy

NC221755 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Aug 8

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil had a working meeting in B'abda Palace today with a Lebanese Front delegation. [passage omitted]

Following this meeting, Dr George Sa'adah [Phalangist Party leader] called for the formation of a new government, noting that details of this issue were not discussed at the meeting. Dr Sa'adah affirmed that the people cannot take any more and that ensuring that their daily needs are met must come first. He stated that the front will hold consultations with all leaders to reverse the deterioration of the economic situation. [passage omitted]

Lawyer Karim Paqraduni, deputy chairman of the Lebanese Forces, said: At our meeting with the president we discussed the need for a new government. Only by the formation of a new government can we fill the gaps resulting from boycott, resignation, and death. He added: It is the only way in which economic deterioration can be reversed in the short term. Nothing can be done in the absence of a government, while everything is possible if there is a government, he noted.

He continued: The president agrees with us that the formation of a government is the first step. The president's plan, Paqraduni said, includes urgent economic measures which may be announced next week, as well as ministerial measures which will be discussed following his trip abroad. Paqraduni concluded: Although a new government is not likely to be formed in the very near future, we may be on the verge of taking economic measures which are being prepared by the president. These measures do not require a cabinet meeting. They only need the prime minister's approval.

Birri on Economic Emergency, 'Black Revolution'

NC221727 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri today again called for the formation of an emergency economic committee, emphasizing that this would not affect the free economy system.

In a speech delivered at the Automobile Club in Beirut's southern suburb, lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, affirmed that there can be no capitulation to economic pressures. He said that every plan that is put forward contains some facts; however, the bitter fact which they [not further identified] do not want to face is that this system of government has failed and belongs to the past.

Minister Birri renewed his proposal for the formation of an emergency economic committee, declaring that this would not affect the free economy system. He added that before the subsidy is removed, a large part of it should be used to ensure that hospitals, medicines, complete health insurance, school books, and free schooling are available. It is only then that the subsidy could be lifted, but from gasoline alone, not from fuel oil, diesel oil, or flour.

Minister Birri called on the Arabs to purchase gasoline and flour and to send this to Lebanon as part of Arab aid, just as they are doing for Jordan and other countries.

With regard to political affairs, Minister Birri said: If they are trying to exploit the food problem in order to circumvent reconciliation and to revive the 1943 formula, they should forget it completely. We will not submit now any more than we did in the past to their bullets and bombs. Birri concluded by saying: We tell them that there must be a sane revolution by the Lebanese people before there is a sweeping revolution. In other words, we are asking them for a white revolution. Otherwise, there will be a black revolution. It is already on its way.

PSP Statement Outlines Economic, Political Views

NC241952 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The PSP Political Bureau held a periodic meeting today under the chairmanship of party leader Walid Junblatt to discuss current political and economic conditions in the country. The Bureau then issued the following statement:

1. The Political Bureau discussed at length the serious deterioration of the country's economic and social situation. The Bureau's view is that this deterioration is not unconnected with the plot to cause Lebanon's disintegration, impoverish its people, and weaken its national position in order to impose humiliating conditions on it, particularly now that the battle for the presidency, which was initiated early by the isolationist party, is drawing near. The economic collapse, which began 4 years ago, is not an inexplicable phenomenon produced by hidden forces, but the result of a deliberate policy pursued by Amin al-Jumayyil, particularly in relation to the procurement of weapons for the Army. This has led to the depletion of the country's foreign currency reserves and caused a serious upset in the balance of payments for the first time in Lebanon's economic history. This plan was seized upon by the isolationist parties, which found in the destruction of the Lebanese national currency a way to destroy the last bridge uniting the Lebanese people.

2. The Political Bureau discussed the plans and proposals which have been put forward to halt the economic decline. In particular, it examined the suggestion that has been made from time to time that the subsidies on fuel and flour should be removed. The Political Bureau declared its absolute opposition to the proposals for an end to subsidies across the board. This would expose the people to the danger of real starvation. [passage omitted]

3. The Political Bureau also discussed the proposal to sell part of the gold reserves to obtain foreign currency that could be used to

intervene in the currency market. The Bureau thinks that such a step would push the Lebanese pound into a dark tunnel and would assist those forces which are trying to undermine the function of the currency as a principal means of communication among the Lebanese. A regime which has wasted millions of dollars is capable of wasting the money which would accrue from the sale of one-fifth of the gold reserves. Furthermore, the mistakes made by the Central Bank about 2 years ago, when it wasted some $400 million in a wrong experimental policy to support the Lebanese pound, could be committed again. The value of the national currency will then be lost, as will part of the gold reserves, which constitute the final guarantee for the Lebanese pound.

4. The Political Bureau believes that in view of the serious socioeconomic deterioration it is no longer permissible to continue the policy of sacrificing everything in order not to undermine the free economy. The regulation of economic freedom so that economic chaos and corruption may be controlled has become a matter of extreme urgency. In this regard, an attempt should now be made to regulate and define banking confidentiality. Absolute secrecy can no longer be maintained. [passage omitted]

5. The Political Bureau heard a report by the secretary of the civil administration about the fuel situation in the mountain region and praised the firm measures taken by the civil administration to prevent black market trading. [passage omitted]

6. The Political Bureau discussed the general political situation in the country. The Bureau again noted that the crime of the assassination of martyr Rashid Karami was no ordinary political crime, but the spearhead of a dangerous plot against Lebanon's unity, national action, and Arab identity. Therefore, in the view of the Political Bureau, if this crime is forgotten or sidestepped, the plot will be allowed to move on to the next, more advanced stage.

The Political Bureau believes that the Liberation and Unification Front constitutes a suitable framework for national action at present because it encompasses a broad spectrum of all the nationalist groups and areas. It calls for concentrated efforts to strengthen and activate this front and declares that the front's effectiveness must not be allowed to become paralyzed, nor must its role be aborted in any way. The Bureau also noted that democratic freedoms and a correct party system constitute a guarantee for nationalist action in Lebanon. Therefore, it calls for the main party offices in Beirut to be reopened so that political and democratic activity may take place and the social and national struggle be waged during this fateful period through which the country is passing.

President's Aide Interviewed on Lebanon, Hostages

PM250900 Paris LE MATIN in French 19 Aug 87 p 4

[Report on interview with 'Umran Adham, unofficial spokesman for Syrian President al-Asad, by Jean-Louis Morillon in Paris on 18 August]

[Text] "Charles Glass has been released. He obviously did not escape. I recently informed U.S. envoys that Glass would be released first and then the other Western hostages would be freed later. Recent events prove that this was more than just talk, and the rest of my remarks will be proved correct in the near future." In his extraordinary Paris apartment, decorated with huge statues of the Buddha, 'Umran Adham, 40-year old Syrian businessman and unofficial spokesman for President Hafiz al-Asad in France, hinted to *Le Matin* yesterday that more good news was to be expected about some of the 23 foreigners, including 6 Frenchmen, still missing in Lebanon.

Before leaving for Damascus on Friday, where he will have another meeting with the Syrian head of state, 'Umran Adham dispelled any doubt about the rather incredible "escape" of the American journalist, who said that on Monday night he had succeeded in locking up his sleeping guards, running down the stairs of a 10-story apartment block in the Shi'ite fundamentalist district of Bir al-'Abd, reaching the first Syrian roadblock on foot, and having himself taken to the luxurious Summerland Hotel on the seafront.

According to 'Umran Adham, this scenario conceals a fact: The kidnappers heeded Syrian "advice." "Syrian Defense Minister General Talas and Chief of Staff General Hikmat Shihabi went to Beirut last week and met with the leaders of all the Lebanese factions, including Hizballah, to tell them that Syria will not accept the present situation. The fact that Charles Glass came from a district in Beirut's southern suburb, where the Syrian Army is not deployed, proves Syria's great influence in Lebanon," 'Umran Adham stated.

What is the explanation for the fact that a Western prisoner — and moreover an American who is the incarnation of "Satan" — was able to leave a zone held by pro-Iranian Hizballah militia, where, according to 'Umran Adham, "all the American and French hostages are most probably held. President Hafiz al-Asad preferred to abandon this hostage issue and leave the Western countries to cope when people started accusing Syria of backing terrorism. But the Americans and French saw that they could not obtain anything if they tried to bypass Syria and use other channels.

"Recently, therefore, envoys from Washington and Paris have come knocking on President Hafiz al-Asad's door once again and have said to him: We can do nothing in the region without you. And they have once again entrusted him with the Lebanese issue and, of course, with the hostage problem. The Syrian president is a man of his word and, when he gives a promise, he keeps it. The Western countries have made many mistakes in Lebanon, but they are now coming round to a better attitude."

'Umran Adham is no longer sure that there is any need for an operation by Syrian commandos against the kidnappers belonging to listed groupings. Charles Glass' release proves that "gentle persuasion" can suffice without risking a dangerous operation. "Syria is determined to solve the whole Lebanese problem; however, it is highly likely that it will first find a solution to the hostage problem, which is the most pressing problem. It is now probable that the Western countries have finally realized that President Hafiz al-Asad is the strong man and that he alone can restore security to Lebanon.

"We are determined to establish peace in Lebanon, although this is not easy after 12 years of civil war. We will have to change the 1943 Constitution to take account of the existing population. However, we can keep a Christian president, although he will not necessarily be a Maronite. He might be Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, or Protestant. President al-Jumayyil will be able to continue his mandate until fall 1988, but preparations must be made for a return to a strong, unified state with a powerful army and no militias."

Seen from Damascus, therefore, the release of the hostages — which has scarcely begun — would only be the first phase in a vast program to normalize a devastated and divided Lebanon, France giving President Hafiz al-Asad a free hand after long aspiring to play a leading role in this Middle Eastern country. However, the fact remains that an obscure movement called the Organization for the Defense of Free People claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Charles Glass and that the Syrians still have to show that they can influence Islamic Jihad, which is responsible for most of the kidnappings, including those of diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and sociologist Michel Seurat (whose death has never been proved).

However, it is obvious that, in the maze of winding streets in Bir al-'Abd, these groups are bound to know each other and may all be receptive to the arguments used by the Syrians who know how to end discussions when they continue for too long and are insincere. At all events 'Umran Adham has just repeated that Hizballah's dream of establishing an Islamic Republic in Lebanon will never be accepted in Damascus.

'Umran Adham, a friend of President Hafiz al-Asad, also speaks well of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, with whom he has regular meetings in Libya and his plan is "to establish confidence between the northern and southern Mediterranean countries." And he advised the Western countries to be "kind" to these partners rather than spreading malicious rumors about "states which are accomplices of terrorism." In any event, no one in the Washington, Paris, or even London Governments is now making accusations against President Hafiz al-Asad whose image as a crucial and effective mediator will be further strengthened by the "miraculous" release of Charles Glass who seemed doomed after his "confessions" about his ties with the CIA — an unforgivable abomination in the eyes of the Shi'ite extremists.

Joelle Kauffmann, wife of our *L'Evenement du Jeudi* colleague kidnapped on 22 May 1985, told *Le Matin* yesterday that she is cautiously optimistic: "Charles Glass' release proves that local action can be taken in Lebanon despite the Gulf crisis between the United States and Iran which seemed to be hampering any solution. In present circumstances this is certainly not a gift from

Ayatollah Khomeyni to Reagan. However, this shows that Syria has great power over Hizballah who can be moved by other influences than simple alignment with Tehran.

"I am very satisfied with the good news about Charles Glass. No Westerner had been released for 8 months, since French television Channel 2 journalist Aurel Cornea was released last Christmas. And I hope that it will be possible to do the same for our hostages without a shot being fired or there being any bloodshed. I hope it will be achieved simply by knowing on which door to knock, as apparently happened with Glass."

Al-Ahmar Receives Visiting Soviet Delegation

JN231954 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received a Soviet Communist Party delegation led by (Shinin), first secretary of the party committee in the (Khakass) District of the Soviet RSFSR. The Soviet ambassador in Damascus also attended.

The head of the guest delegation expressed admiration for what had been achieved in the country under the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He also voiced the positive impressions he had gained from his visits to some provinces in the country. Comrade al-Ahmar then discussed the developments that have taken place in Syria at all levels in recent years. He also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly the continued Israeli aggression against Arabs and the dangers posed to the Arab Gulf by the presence of U.S. and allied fleets.

Concluding his remarks, Comrade al-Ahmar praised the USSR political initiative on existing world problems.

Meets With Cambodian Party Official

JN241339 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received a Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] delegation led by Comrade Yos Son, Central Committee member and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, this morning. The meeting was also attended by Amin Abu al-Shamat, deputy secretary of the Ba'th Party Central Committee.

During the meeting, talks focused on the relations between the Ba'th Party and the KPRP, as well as with their development. The talks also reviewed the stage of comprehensive reconstruction experienced by the two friendly countries to build a new society which realizes justice and development for their peoples.

Comrade Yos Son expressed his positive impression of Syria's development and progress under the Ba'th Party and its secretary geenral, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He also praised Syria's anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist nationalist stand. He said that Syria constitutes a steadfast bastion of confrontation against the imperialist and Zionist schemes of hegemony and expansion. Comrade Yos Son referred to the developments in Indochina and its peoples' solidarity against the imperialist and reactionary schemes which are aimed against these peoples struggle, independence, and sovereignty.

The assistant secretary general dealt with the latest developments in the Arab world and the continuous Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. He also affirmed Syria's steadfastness in confronting this aggression and the imperialist and Zionist schemes. Al-Ahmar also affirmed that the struggle will continue in order to liberate the occupied Arab territories, regain Arab rights, and build the Arab socialist society. He referred to the dangers posed to the Arab Gulf region through the concentration of U.S.-Western fleets under alleged slogans. He said that this provocative buildup escalates tension, increases the possibility of expanding the Iraq-Iran war, and does not help to stop it. He asserted that these steps obstruct the achievement of a just peace. Comrade al-Ahmar touched on the Indochinese peoples' legitimate struggle. He said: Our battle is one regardless of geographic distances and our enemy is common irrespective of its various nationalities. He affirmed the stand of the Ba'th Party and Syria alongside these peoples' struggle for the sake of reaching their objectives.

Meanwhile, an agreement for joint cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the KPRP for 1987-88 was signed at the National Command building this morning. It was signed for the Ba'th Party by Comrade Amin Abu al-Shamat, deputy secretary of the Ba'th Party Central committee, and for the KPRP by Comrade Yos Son.

Cambodian, CPSU Delegations Depart

JN241936 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus, 24 Aug (SANA) — A Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party delegation under Comrade Yos Son, Central Committee member and chairman of the party's Foreign Relations Committee, left Damascus at noon today following a 3-day visit to Syria. During its stay here, the Cambodian delegation held political talks with a number of party officials and representatives of popular bodies.

Meanwhile, a CPSU delegation led by Comrade Shinin, first secretary of the Khakass Autonomous Oblast Party Committee in the Caucuses Republic [name and title as received], left Damascus today after a 1-week visit to Syria. During their stay, the delegation members were shown key economic achievements and archaeological and cultural sights in Syria.

CSSR Deputy Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

JN241503 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus, 24 Aug (SANA) — Svatopluk Potac, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Commission in the CSSR,arrived in Damascus today. He is on a visit to Syria which will last several days.

On hand to welcome him at the airport were Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and the CSSR ambassador and embassy staff.

He told reporters upon arrival that he is visiting Syria to further strengthen and deepen bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation in the mutual interests of the friendly peoples.

Yasin, Potac Discuss Economic Ties

JN250735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, today received Svatopluk Potac, CSSR deputy premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission, and his accompanying delegation. The Czechoslovak ambssador in Damascus and the economic attache at the CSSR Embassy also attended the meeting. For the Syrians, the meeting was attended by the appropriate officials from the office of the deputy prime minister.

They discussed economic, trade, scientific, and cultural relations between the two friendly countries and ways to develop them in accordance with a common desire and mutual interests.They agreed to discuss the necessary details and to draw up programs for action by technicians and experts during the visit.

Ba'th Party Delegation Departs for USSR 25 Aug

JN251237 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus, 25 Aug (SANA) — An Arabic Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Hiyam Duwayhi, Ba'th Party Central Committee member and deputy chairman of the party's regional Command Secretariat office, left Damascus for Moscow this morning on an official 1-week visit to the Soviet Union.

During this visit, the delegation will hold talks and meetings to enhance the existing aspects of cooperation with the CPSU and will be acquainted with a number of party and economic institutions there.

Kabul Protests Missile Attack From Pakistan

LD241651 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday and the following protest note was conveyed to him by the director of the first political section:

According to reports by the DRA security forces, surface-to-surface missiles were fired on 4 August on the border battalion and on the center of Spin Buldak District from Pakistan's (Shera Obey) region, 5.5 km north of Ashraf Tani. As a result, two members of the border battalion were martyred and six other innocent people were martyred or injured.

The DRA Government strongly protests this aggression and demands that Pakistani authorities cease such aggression immediately. Otherwise, the responsibility for any consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Pakistan's Government, in line with its earlier accusations, has claimed that on 16 and 21 July Afghanistan's Armed Forces violated the region of Ghadai in Bajaur Agency.

Similarly, it has claimed that on 2, 5, and 8 August 1987, Afghanistan's Armed Forces violated the regions of Darra-e Nawi in Mohmand Agency.

After all-round assessment, the DRA Government describes this claim by Pakistan's Government as far from the truth. It resolutely refutes the claim, and demands that the Pakistani authorities stop such accusations which do nothing but aggravate relations between the two countries.

Karachi Notes Mujahidin Destroy 3 Military Posts

BK250614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have destroyed three Soviet-Kabul military posts and set fire to an oil depot in the outskirts of Kabul.

According to reports, 18 Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed in this operation.

Leaders Greet Romanian Counterparts on National Day

LD250628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 24, *Bakhtar* — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, Haji Muhammed Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA has sent a congratulatory message to Bucharest addressed to Nicolae Ceausescu general secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and Constantin Dascalescu chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary celebrations of National Day of that country.

In the message confidence is expressed that the existing friendly and brotherly relations and cooperations between the parties and governments of the two countries will be further strengthened in the interest of the peoples of the two countries, peace and international security in future.

President Offers Peace Talks to Tribal Insurgents
BK221358 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 22 (AFP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Saturday [22 August] offered peace talks with tribal insurgents in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong Hill Tracts. The government was trying to establish communication with the Shanti Bahini insurgents to discover exactly what they wanted, Mr Ershad told the Overseas Correspondents' Association of Bangladesh (OCAB).

"We came to know a little bit of what they want.... Now we want to know in detail what the tribal people want and what we should do to stop the insurgency haunting the Hill Tracts for so many years," Mr Ershad said. The Dhaka government was ready for peace talks with the tribal Chakma leaders of the Shanti Bahini to solve the problem once and for all, he added.

Mr Ershad said that up to 3,000 members of one of the two Shanti Bahini groups had laid down their arms after talks with the government, but others remained underground and were still disturbing the peace in the Hill Tracts. The president said he believed in a peaceful and political solution to the problem.

The outlawed Shanti Bahini insurgents, led by influential Chakma tribesmen, have been fighting a guerrilla war since the early 1970's in the rugged jungle districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts covering nearly 13,000 square kilometers (5,200 square miles) in southeastern Bangladesh bordering India and Burma. They have been demanding autonomy and the removal of nearly 200,000 Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers from other districts of Bangladesh.

President Ershad said his administration had stopped any settlement of people from the other districts in the Hill Tracts. The Shanti Bahini stepped up guerrilla attacks on settler villages in 1986, sparking unrest which sent thousands of Chakma tribesmen across the border into India.

Bangladesh says nearly 30,000 Chakma tribespeople have crossed into India, although New Delhi says that they have given shelter to about 50,000 Chakma refugees.

President Ershad said Saturday that his government was committed to bring back the Chakmas who had crossed over to India. "They are our people... and they must be brought back home".

Dhaka Commentary on Tribal Struggle, Repatriation
BK211650 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 87

[News commentary]

[Text] In an extraordinary move to resist subversive activities of so-called Shanti Bahini in the Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh, tribal and non-tribal leaders of Longada upazila [subdivision] in Rangamati District signed an agreement with public representatives recently. This is the first time that the local tribals and settlers initiated a joint initiative for maintaining peace in the area by thwarting the subversive attempts of the misguided youths. The understanding, reached in the presence of the local area commander, is going to be a nucleus for restoration of peace in the tribal areas, where the armed miscreants operating from their sanctuaries in Tripura State of India have been trying to disturb the social equilibrium.

This is a development which should serve as an eye-opener to the so-called Shanti Bahini. Both tribal and non-tribal communities living in the Hill Tracts have been lending all their energy in furthering the process of economic development for their common welfare. Together they are now growing in an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation, and the latest accord to free their areas from subversive activities, by putting up a joint fight against the armed miscreants, is worthy of emulation in other troubled areas of the Hill Tracts.

The much talked about Chakma refugee issue has assumed a new dimension, with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Ershad stressing its immediate solution. The Indian premier's special envoy, Narasimha Rao, who just had detailed talks with the Bangladesh president in Dhaka on bilateral issues with particular reference to the repatriation of Chakmas in the Indian refugee camps, hinted at an early solution of the issue. True, this vexing issue should be resolved with a greater sense of urgency, and neither side can afford to waste further time on academic and useless deliberations or trivialities.

Bangladesh's stand on the issue is candidly clear. It has expressed its readiness to take back its nationals, who are either intimidated or misguided by the armed youths so as to fall in their trap. Some 29,900 refugees, so far identified by the tribal district authorities, now languishing in refugee camps and subjected to unbearable (?deprivation), are eagerly awaiting their repatriation by the Bangladesh Government. Since they are not free agents to return home of their own accord, both the Governments of India and Bangladesh have to sort out the modalities of their repatriation.

The issue of Chakma refugees has to be judged from a humanitarian point of view. In interstate relations, particularly in the backdrop of South-South spirit, neither of the countries can afford to (?shift) over the issue. President Ershad is quite anxious about its early settlement so that both the misguided youths, as well as Chakma refugees, will return to their ancestral homes for homogeneous social growth. And in pursuance thereof, the Bangladesh president outlined an action plan before Narasimha Rao for creating conditions of repatriation of the Chakma refugees.

It is, however, appreciable that Narasimha Rao made a categorical assertion on the Chakma question, which he said was a matter of concern for Bangladesh alone. But Indian willingness to cooperate with the Bangladesh Government in resolving the issue is simply not reassuring. What is now needed is the necessary goodwill to work on the action plan given by President Ershad. In all fairness, India would do well to help resolve the Chakma issue as promised in a spirit of good-neighborliness and mutual understanding.

External Affairs Minister on PRC Missiles, Border

BK250900 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] China has denied that there are any missiles in Lhasa aimed at cities in north India. However, India is reviewing and monitoring all matters relating to the security environment and taking adequate precautions. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, during question time in the Rajya Sabha today.

Answering a spate of supplementaries on the Sino-India border dispute, the minister said India wanted the issue to be solved in a spirit of negotiations. We are looking forward to talks with the Chinese leaders before the end of this year, he said. India wants to have closer links with China in trade, culture, and technology.

The minister said India wants that the talks be held both on the political and official levels.

Views Iranian 'Propaganda'

BK250901 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The government is aware of the motivated and misleading anti-India propaganda by Radio Tehran about communal riots and killings of Muslims in India. There have been organized demonstrations also in front of the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

Confirming this in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, said during the question hour that the matter has been taken up with the Government of Iran through diplomatic channels.

House Briefed on Pakistani Stingers in Kashmir

BK250907 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] There are reports that Pakistan is deploying the U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles in a number of areas in occupied Kashmir. The Soviet paper, *Pravda*, has published these reports.

The Rajya Sabha was told today in a written reply that the government is keeping a close watch on matters having a bearing on India's security. All measures to ensure full defense preparedness are being taken.

Envoy to Sweden To Seek Information on Bofors Deal

BK210307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] India has asked its ambassador in Sweden to secure quickly the complete information, including deleted portions, on the Bofors gun deal from the Swedish Government.

An official press release said that the ambassador should obtain the complete report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau, as it is vital for the joint parliamentary committee to inquire into the matter. The press note said nothing less than complete information on the nature and circumstances of the payment of Bofors will satisfy the government.

The government has reiterated its determination to take stern action against those found guilty of violation of the law of the land.

Lok Sabha Passes Terrorism Prevention Bill

BK250520 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed a bill giving more powers to the law and order machinery to combat terrorism effectively. The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Bill replaces a presidential ordinance promulgated in May last. The house rejected a statutory resolution moved by Mr Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M, seeking to disapprove the ordinance.

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, in his reply to the discussion, said more powers to the law and order machinery are justified. There are inbuilt safeguards to prevent misuse of the powers. He agreed with the members that the Punjab problem has to be solved politically. Mr Chidambaram said 130 terrorists have been killed in Punjab in the last 3 months. This is almost equal to the number of terrorists killed during the entire period of the Barnala government.

During the discussion, members from both sides expressed the view that an extraordinary situation prevails in Punjab. They stressed the importance of people's cooperation to isolate the terrorists. They wanted security rings in the sensitive areas to create confidence in the people.

Some members objected to the provisions which say that confession made before police officers can be taken as evidence. According to them, these provisions have dangerous implications. Ruling party members, on the other hand, said that such provisions will ensure deterrent action.

Curfew Imposed Following Murder of Congress-I Member

BK241627 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] In Ludhiana, curfew has been imposed in some parts of the city as a precautionary measure. This follows the killing of the district youth Congress-I president, Mr Radhey Shyam Malhotra. He was shot dead by two scooter-borne terrorists near his factory this morning.

The Punjab Pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr Beant Singh, has condemned the murder. In a statement in Chandigarh today he demanded stringent steps to check the activities of terrorists and antinational elements.

Last night, four terrorists were killed in Punjab. These include the dreaded terrorist, Ranjit Singh. According to the police, Ranjit Singh was involved in about 40 killings including that of a CPI leader. He was killed in an encounter in Faridkot District.

In another encounter near Gurdaspur, three terrorists were killed including the dreaded terrorists, Preetam Singh and Bir Singh. Both were responsible for a number of crimes in the area.

Meanwhile, five hardcore terrorists surrendered to the Amritsar police today. They were responsible for several killings. The Amristar police have also arrested three persons for harboring terrorists.

Frigate Disrupts U.S. Navy Convoy Formation

LD242050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 24 Aug 87

[From the headlines]

[Text] A frigate of the Islamic Republic of Iran disrupted the formation of a U.S. military convoy escorting four Kuwaiti tankers around the Strait of Hormuz on Monday.

Tehran Cites AFP on Convoy

LD242116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AFP has reported that an Iranian frigate, ignoring the warnings of U.S. naval forces escorting four Kuwaiti ships close to the Strait of Hormuz, came close to them, forcing the U.S. ships to break formation. [passage omitted]

Navy Denies 'Encounter'

LD251513 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, August 25, IRNA — An informed source at the Iranian Navy on Tuesday denied reports of an encounter on Monday between an Iranian warship and a convoy of US ships escorting Kuwaiti ships at the Persian Gulf. He said the US claim is utterly unfounded and is a show-off of military power.

He said the Iranian warship is assigned routine duties at the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and on Tuesday monitored the passage of the US escort ships. He added that no copters from the US carrier *Guadalcanal* had flown over the Iranian warship.

The official said the Iranian Navy would all the same maintain its presence in the Persian Gulf and will carry out its duties without the least hesitation.

Khomeyni, Others Deliver Speeches on Government Week

Khomeyni Address to Cabinet

LD231707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1041 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Speech by Imam Khomeyni at a meeting with the president and Cabinet to mark the occasion of "Government Week" on 23 August; place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We are thankful that God Almighty is our one and only haven in the face of all the problems that have been created and will be created for the Islamic Republic. Whatever there is comes from Him, and whatever is to come is from Him. We must realize that we are nothing; whatever is, comes from Him. We are nothing without His favor without which we would not have any grace. However, we have many problems and may think that this makes us something. This is a cover over us which I hope God will take away so that we may realize what we are in order that they may have the best opportunity to observe what they are and what they are part of. If this is done, then divine knowledge will have been attained. If the cover over us is removed, then we will know that there is no one and nothing else but Him and that all problems are due to this cover. We think of these matters. I hope that God may grant knowledge to us and the enjoyment of serving God's people.

I am aware of the problems facing the government, government employees, and people in all walks of life who work for the government. Of course, you are more aware of them. I know that the government and those affiliated to it, while being the most deprived, are also the most sincere. While they live frugal lives, they have spiritual strength. Spiritual power diminishes as life becomes more important. This is obvious. The more steps a man takes in this world, the less equal he is to cope with them. Those who live in very grandiose palaces have more cares then those who live frugally in ordinary districts. Therefore, we are grateful for this point too, that He has covered us in the drab garb of frugality; that is, not in the drab garb of just anyone, but of the true man of frugality.

We consider it our duty to serve God and God's subjects. We believe that everything comes from Him. We shall, God willing, solve our problems. Just as we have all persevered so far in the face of problems, so will everyone continue to persevere. I pray to God to give you success. Those who are on the outside and criticize do so because they are not involved. Criticizing is easy, solving problems is difficult. Of course, there are those outside who say: Why is this? Why was this not done? Why should this be? They are unaware of the problems. The government and people of Iran are facing many difficulties as you can see, and all the governments of the world, but not their people, are bent on destroying the Islamic Republic; that is, they are bent on destroying Islam. At the same time, God Almighty has given His blessings. We have resisted and persevered and, God willing, we will continue to do so.

What I would like to talk about today is the regrettable incident in Mecca. Since the start of the revolution, which hopefully began for God and for the salvation of the nation, we have had many martyrs. Before the revolution, during the period of injustice in the shah's time, we had great martyrs. Afterwards, when we had (?rights), we had very valuable martyrs. However, the Hijaz incident is different. In those days we were sometimes assaulted; sometimes we assaulted others. It was the same in the later period. Afterwards, it was the same. We gave many martyrs. We have given martyrs everywhere. Everyone remembers the difficulties endured during Reza Shah's time, all of which you know. In Mohammad Reza's time too, you remember what the situation was like and how many martyrs we gave. Also, how many martyrs we gave in between [as heard]. All of this happened for the sake of martyrdom, a great issue. This was a big event, but not like the matter in Hijaz.

The issue of Jerusalem is an important issue and you witnessed Jerusalem Day. Jerusalem Day is one issue and Bloody Friday in Mecca is another. Jerusalem Day is to save Jerusalem from the clutches of the usurpers. However, it was not as if they were insulting Jerusalem and destroying it. They wanted to keep Jerusalem and so forth. Of course, Jerusalem should not be in their hands, but Jerusalem Day was held because Islam had been

damaged. We held Jerusalem Day because the hammer which had been taken by the usurpers should be in the hands of its owners. All those explosions and acts of terrorism took away our dear ones. The dust of their feet is more valued than that of palace-dwellers, if they ever had any value. All in all, we suffer blows and deal blows.

In the war imposed on us by Saddam, we have suffered many martyrs. This is our loss. It is not the same as the Hijaz issue. We and the world are not aware of what happened in the Hijaz issue. In the Hijaz incident, the greatest holy, Islamic, and global values were violated. Ka'bah is revered by all nations and not by Muslims alone, by all nations which believe in a religion. The word Ka'bahhas existed since the beginning of creation and all prophets have served in it. Breaking the Ka'bah is not something that one can easily forgive. Even if we forgive the issue of Jerusalem, even if we forgive Saddam and all those who have wronged us, we would not be able to forgive the Hijaz incident. The Hijaz incident is an issue quite apart from others. What is necessary is to keep that day alive, the day that treason was committed against Islam.

The month of Muharram is approaching, a month of mourning for us. Furthermore, the lord of martyrs [Imam Husayn]— peace be upon him — made the sacrifice of leaving Mecca, so that he did not jeopardize the sanctity of holy Mecca. Everyone is ready to risk his life for Mecca where all prophets have served.

Today, Mecca is held by a gang of heretics who do not know what to do. They have never understood, and do not understand now, what was imposed on them. It is a shameful matter for Muslims of the world that Mecca, a place for worshipping the Divinity, a most sacred site of the Divinity, should be thus desecrated while Muslims sit by and watch. Muslims themselves are aware of their duties. The issue must be kept alive during the month of Muharram when all speakers, singers of lamentations and traditions, and all processions must bring this issue to the fore. The reason for the martyrdom of the lord of martyrs was to establish divine justice, to uphold the holy house of God, and to preserve it.

In our times when we are all sitting and watching, what are we watching? What should we do? I must point out that our way of dealing with the matter is not that we should do something to those present here from Saudi Arabia, or from Kuwait, or anywhere else. These people are under our protection and must be protected. Our young people of course mean well, but I humbly tell them that there may be some among their ranks who do not mean well and who are trying to tarnish the state of Iran and its government. You must realize that these people are not that important for us to want to do something to them. The issue is more important.

We, with all our forces, Muslims with their forces, and the world's believers in God with all forces at their disposal must combat this issue in any way they see fit. This shame must not be taken to our graves, the shame that we were there and witnessed the greatest crime in front of us.

Now, they [Saudis] are accusing us. The plot was undoubtedly premeditated. There is no question about that, about the fact that it was premeditated. It had been decided upon. The plot was imposed on the stupid house of Al Sa'ud to carry out such a stupid deed and so bring the house of Al Sa'ud into disrepute, even though it was already in a state of disrepute. We are truly at a loss as to what to do.

The exalted and most holy God will preserve His own house, and they will receive slaps on their faces from Muslims, believers, and dwellers of Hijaz. The Hijazis did not know not anything about this matter, other than the gangs belonging to this false party [as heard], this false state, this false government.

The plot was premeditated. Never before when the hajj pilgrims were departing has the house of Al Sa'ud sent (?a message) thanking me for saying that there must be calm there and so forth. This was not so, though. This happened this year. Why did he send me a message? It was to allow him to say he meant well and so forth. Maybe it was a show. The best proof that it was a plot is seen in their methods.

They themselves admitted this in saying that the Iranians had intended to set fire to the Ka'bah and (?set off riots from the Ka'bah). This is a stupid thing to say. It is obvious that right from the beginning they wanted to use the excuse that the Iranians had come to ruin the Ka'bah and were prepared to give them a good beating. It is not a question of being killed, it is a question of disrespect. The Hijaz issue has many dimensions, but its most important feature is the desecration of a holy place. The Muslims will not sit by idly.

Fahd and his like will realize later what was imposed on him and what really took place. The Muslims themselves know their duty. The Hijazis also know the same. If the massacre that took place at the holy place had taken place in Al-Ta'if, it could be tolerated because it would be in Al-Ta'if and would be only a massacre. We have many dead; we have many killed in the war. We had many before and will have more. If this had happened in Al-Ta'if, it would have been an issue; they would say some were killed. However, this took place in the holy place, where God has made a sanctuary.

Today, the holy place is [words indistinct] in their hands. It has been so from the beginning. Who were these people who became custodians of the holy mosque, betrayers of the holy mosque? Who has said they are the custodian of the two holy mosques? On what grounds did they change the name of that Islamic country from what it used to be, Hijaz, to the Saudi state? On what grounds is it the Saudi state? These are complicated matters.

We are making efforts to end this situation. Actually, I used to have much patience with problems, the problem of war and others, but this issue has made me impatient. This is a different issue from others. I wish that the almighty and exalted God will resolve the problems with His might.

I hope that God may grant us all success and allow us not to be indifferent in this regard during the month of Muharram. Muslims of the world should not be indifferent. May God grant us success. I hope that you will be servants of the servants of God who are (?meek) and who have been oppressed. You should preserve this manner of serving. You are of the same stratum

level, may God bless us, and not of higher levels. You are not of a low status; you enjoy prominence. Those who governed in the past were of the [words indistinct] level. May God grant you success in your service. The peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Khamene'i Praises Civil Servants

LD231614 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1041 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Speech by President Khamene'i at a meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Cabinet to mark the occasion of "Government Week" on 23 August; place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On behalf of those who serve the Cabinet and on my own behalf, I express my sincere thanks to you for your kindness in permitting us to meet with you [Khomeyni] on the occasion of the beginning of Government Week and to benefit from your instructions and guidance. This is the 6th year that, thanks to God, the government, in benefitting from your guidance and assistance, has shouldered the heavy burden of administering the country.

Despite the pressures, problems, and rare and unique obstacles, the government has been able to carry out many positive tasks with much struggle and effort and with reliance on the Almighty. It has also completed important duties at this very sensitive juncture in our history, thanks to God. First, those duties that have been carried out and completed by our brothers are our primary duty and responsibility. All of these brothers are proud of their efforts and proud that they have been able to do something for this nation.

Second, we consider that everything accomplished has been done by the grace of the Almighty, with His assistance and guidance. If this divine assistance did not exist and if the special grace that God has bestowed on this nation and on this Islamic country did not exist, then one-tenth of our duties would not have been accomplished, at least not easily.

Third, we feel that all the tasks carried out by the brothers in the government — even though, thanks to God, the volume and quality of these tasks have been high — are not the only tasks of government officials and servants. There is a long road ahead and much work lies before us.

I would like to take advantage of this occasion to mention two items in the presence of our dear leader. One is to remember two of our honored martyrs, because recent events remind us of their martyrdom and the values for which they stood. They are the late martyr Rajai'e and the late martyr Bahonar. The second reminder concerns the great strata of civil servants, this large family that forms the great body of government. These civil servants are among the strata who have coped with problems and carried heavy burdens, and who have tangibly experienced the hardships of war.

We hope that Almighty God may bestow His grace and benedictions again and secure and keep your eminent grace for Islam and the Muslims. Your grace is truly a blessing and bounty for our nation, country, and revolution and for this period in our history. May God grant your graciousness His benediction and grace and may He realize your high aspirations. We expect that this year, too, just as in the past, you will englighten us with your guidance and explanations.

Musavi Hails People's Resistance

LD231615 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1041 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Speech by Prime Minister Musavi at a meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Cabinet to mark the occasion of "Government Week" on 23 August; place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The members of the Cabinet are proud to be received by our gracious revolutionary leader on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the honored marytyrs, Bahonar and Rajai'e, and to benefit from his guidance. We must consider the past year to have truly been an exceptional year, as seen in the escalation of plots by enemies of the Islamic Revolution. At the same time, we should consider the past year to have been a year of resistance by all our people and one in which the executive system of the country was strengthened by gaining experience.

If the government showed resistance this year, then it is due to the resistance of the people themselves. The strength and authority of the government, unlike other governments, does not spring from the power of oppression, bullets, and bayonets, but from the people — their steadfastness and self-sacrifices. They are good, believing people who have both tolerance for resistance and Islamic tolerance. They have assisted us. This is the most fundamental thing about our people. The government has also served the people.

At the same time, it is fitting for me to thank all the servants of the executive system who want to serve their country, believer forces, the Hezbollahi, and the fine experts who love Islam and the revolution. There are many of these forces, all of which have equipped themselves to move down the path toward the great aspirations of the Islamic revolution. God willing, with the people's presence and the extensive presence of Hezbollah forces in the executive system as a whole — of which the government forms a part — we may be able to serve the fighters and the high objectives of the revolution and continue our movement and resistance.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Majlis Opening Session

LD231037 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 23 Aug 87

["Persian Gulf Events Unveil the Ugly Visage of Imperialism, Says Rafsanjani" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Sunday that U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf has unveiled the hypocritical face of imperialism and proved that 'their' claims of neutrality in the (Iraqi imposed) war and Persian Gulf security are nothing but mere pretexts.

Addressing the opening session of parliament after its month long summer break, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Persian Gulf incidents indicate that global arrogance is against the ending of the war, because it has realized Saddam's (Husayn) regime cannot survive.

Therefore, he said, they (imperialists) came to the Persian Gulf to try to infuse life into Saddam, as well as to declare war on the Islamic Republic, if necessary.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that world arrogance is more eager to keep the tension in the Persian Gulf boiling rather than maintaining its security which has been disturbed by their presence.

The Islamic revolution has reached a sensitive stage which calls for people to be on alert in order to foil new conspiracies, he cautioned, adding that world arrogance has openly taken sides, discarding its pretence which hid its true nature for the last eight years.

On the July 31 Saudi massacre of pilgrims in Mecca, Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council said that 'The bloody Friday in Mecca' will serve as an important landmark which unmasked the "ugly face" of regional reactionaries, especially the Saudi regime.

Remarked the Majlis speaker, the U.S. was involved in this carnage the aim of which was to destroy the bridge connecting the Islamic revolution and the people of the Arabian Peninsula. On the contrary this event "has fortified that bridge", he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then discoursed on the victorious Nasr-7 operations launched in the Western fronts (around Sardasht) earlier this month. He termed it as an event which will influence the future of Iraqi Kurdistan and Iran.

Majlis Speaker Addresses War Seminar on Gulf

LD241836 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — Majlis (parliament) Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that the West's naval presence in the Persian Gulf is obvious support for the Baghdad government.

Despite the West's naval presence in the Persian Gulf and global arrogance's open backing for the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, Muslim combatants of Iran are fully ready to counter foes of the Islamic Revolution on any battlefront, stressed the speaker.

Speaking at the third seminar of All-Iran War Support Headquarters here, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the ongoing Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis and the July 31 Mecca massacre of hajj pilgrims by Saudi police are parts of the same plots hatched by the global arrogance against the Islamic Revolution.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded by stressing that despite various plots hatched by enemies of Islam, Iranian Muslim combatants are prepared to confront the global arrogance at the order of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Musavi, Rezai'e Addresses

LD231416 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Today Islam is standing against the U.S. and the whole global arrogance, remarked Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, adding that the Islamic Republic is determined to end U.S. domination over the world.

Addressing a one-day seminar sponsored by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here today, the premier said the Islamic Republic wants world people to be free. "Arrogant powers have gathered in the Persian Gulf to attack Islam and Satanic forces are challenging the Islamic Republic...we will foil all these plots," assured Musavi.

The seminar was held to review IRGC plans to mobilize the second phase of the 20-million-strong Army and form popular committees to support families of Iranian combatants fighting Iraqi troops on the battlefields of the Iraqi-imposed war.

On reports in the foreign media that Iran controls the flow of oil, the premier said "it is a fact that Iran has a determining role in controlling the oil (flow)."

Outlining the economic independence of the Islamic Republic, Musavi said that since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war Iran has never received loans from any foreign countries. "If Iran had done so, we would have either compromised (our principles) or been sunk in the world's economic system. "On the other hand," he said, "our enemy, Saddam runs the war he imposed on Iran by receiving loans from Saudi Arabia and other countries."

Also present at the seminar were secretary of the combatant theologians' society Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Khani, IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezai'e, IRGC minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and other military and political officials.

Later IRGC commander Mohsen Rezai'e addressed the seminar saying today the Iranian people are witness to a series of hostile actions by the global arrogance against the Islamic Republic. He cited the ongoing siege of the Iranian Embassy in Paris, closing down of Iran's Embassy in London and the Black Friday of Mecca.

Rezai'e said that Iran will never forget the July 31 massacre of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca by the Saudi police and will certainly avenge the blood of martyrs. The U.S. has suffered such a serious set-back against Iran in the Persian Gulf that the whole military machine of the West in the region is in total disarray, the IRGC commander said.

Musavi on Islamic Revolution

LD241840 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today that the Islamic Revolution has entered

a sensitive stage where all big powers seem to have aligned against it.

Addressing the third seminar of the All-Iran War Support Headquarters the premier said that arrogant powers have mobilized all their might against the revolution in order to pave the way for their massive presence in the region, an event which seemed unbelievable only four months ago, he added.

Following the weakening of the Iraqi regime at the hands of Iranian forces who are in a strong position, arrogant powers realizing the imminent doom of the Iraqi regime are themselves feeling endangered. Subsequently, said Musavi, the big powers, especially the U.S. are vainly trying to force Iran into a compromise, but they see no ray of hope, he stressed.

"We should analyse all regional and international events within this context," continued Musavi, "and the Mecca massacre cannot be considered outside this context." The Saudi regime's pleas at the ongoing Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis to cut relations with Iran, reflects the gravity of the danger arrogant powers, particularly the U.S., feel in an eventual Iranian victory, Musavi said.

Referring to Security Council Resolution 598, Musavi said that it was accompanied by widespread efforts and threats against the revolution, simultaneous with the superpower military build-up in the Persian Gulf. "If we concentrate all our forces and deploy our full potential, the victory will be achieved and triumph will be possible for us," Musavi said.

President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Cabinet ministers and commanders of the Armed Forces attended the seminar which opened in the Majlis today.

Khamene'i Meets With Ground Forces Commander

LD231247 Tehran IRNA in English 1227 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic, Brigader General Hasan Sa'di met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday and briefed him on the successful operations of the Muslim forces of Iran in completely crushing all enemy movements in the Maymak region and Height Number 402, in the western fronts.

The commander reported to the president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council that Iraqi forces suffered high casualties and massive damage in the Maymak region. He informed the president on future operational plans of the ground forces.

Brigader-General Sa'di also informed President Khamene'i on the complete readiness of the ground forces personnel in crushing plots of superpowers. The president in response issued the necessary guidelines.

In another development, political deputy of the prime minister, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday afternoon before leaving for Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and received the necessary guidelines.

Mo'ayeri is to hand over messages of President Khamene'i to his Czech and Bulgarian counterparts and will discuss bilateral relations, regional issues and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf with the officials of the two countries.

Khamene'i Calls Friday Imams to Briefing Seminar

LD221202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran's Friday prayers imam, has issued a statement calling on Friday prayer imams of Tehran Province's mosques and those of the Central Province and Qom to take part in a briefing seminar. The seminar will be deovted to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' plans for the second phase of the formation of the 20-million strong army, the nationwide dispatch of 'Ashura epic-makers, the popular committees' project to protect the families of combatants, and the best ways of holding the mourning sessions during the month of Muharram. The seminar will be held tomorrow, 23 August, from 0830 to 1730 at the War Headquarters of the 1st Sar Allah Corps at Imam Hasan garrison, located on Afsariyeh highway next to the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Calls U.S. Forces 'Paper Tigers'

LD240651 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) today said that the presence of American British and French forces in the Persian Gulf as well as violation of security of the region clearly means their siding with Iraq in the Iraq-imposed war.

The president made it clear "If a war breaks out between Iran and the U.S. in the Persian Gulf one day Iran will deal shattering blows on American forces." Khamene'i also described American forces in the Persian Gulf as "paper tigers" which he said could be pulverized with a stick of matches.

The SDC head made the remarks in a seminar of leaders of Friday mass prayers of Tehran and the central province.

It is true that the U.S. has warships, long range missiles and many other things and in short it enjoys arms superiority over Iran but the world is now well aware of the fact that Iranian forces are so powerful that they can set ablaze all these arms in a matter of seconds, asserted Khamene'i.

President Khamene'i stressed "The Persian Gulf is a place wherein brave men, who rely solely on God await an enemy who depends merely on blasphemy."

"Never can one set an exact date for an end to the Iraqi-imposed war which is a complicated issue and whose solution depends on time, and circumstances," remarked the SDC head.

He reiterated that all resources should be put at the service of Iran's war efforts in order to achieve a final victory, noting that it is incumbent upon all Iranians to mobilize their resources to

end the war victoriously.

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD250621 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — The Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Qi Huaiyuan, arrived here Monday night on an official visit. The Chinese official said that his trip aimed at exchanging views with Iranian officials on regional issues and Tehran-Beijing relations.

When asked to comment on China's stance towards presence of foreign ships in the Persian Gulf waters which has disturbed security of the region and international peace, he said that his country is against interference of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf. China, he told IRNA, attaches great importance to the security of the region and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf.

Countries of the region, he stressed, should maintain security and freedom of navigation and foreign interference should be ended.

Velayati Protests to UN Chief Over Iraqi Air Raids

LD241138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following the air raids launched by the Iraqi Zionist regime on our country's residential and civilian areas, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The message says: Your Excellency the Secretary General, as you are aware and have been informed by Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations in New York, during the past few days the Iraqi aggressive regime, in continuation of its repeated violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 12 June 1984 agreement and by ignoring Clause 4 of the introductory section of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, has intensified its barbaric attacks on the residential areas and nonmilitary regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

By announcing the abovementioned violations, the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby draws the attention of the United Nations and other international forums to the fact that Iraq has resumed its violation of international principles and regulations and has particularly, flagrantly, and blatantly violated Security Council Resolution No 598. By drawing the attention of international forums to the very grave regional and international consequences resulting from the intensification of these beastly raids, Iran calls upon the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take prompt measures in order to prevent and immediately halt these raids.

While stressing Iran's everlasting commitment to the respect for international principles and regulations, including its abstinence from attacking residential and nonmilitary areas, Mr Velayati has pointed out in his message that should the United Nations remain indifferent and not give a timely response, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be unable to continue to witness the massacre of its own innocent people. If necessary, it will be forced to take retaliatory measures in order to legally defend itself. It is obvious that if this happens, the Iraqi regime will be directly responsible for the irreparable consequences of its atrocities. The shortcomings and lack of timely response on the part of the United Nations will give the Iraqi regime a free hand to continue such violations.

Khamene'i Reportedly To Attend UN General Assembly

LD211117 Kuwait KUNA in English 0839 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] United Nations, Aug 21 (KUNA) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday he had been informed that President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran will lead the Iranian delegation to the 42nd General Assembly next month.

"I received a letter from the permanent representative of Iran, saying President Khamene'i would attend the session," the secretary-general told reporters. Last year the Iranians were represented by their foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Emerging from a closed-door meeting of the Security Council's 15 members, Perez de Cuellar also said he had received guidance from the council about how to proceed under last month's resolution demanding a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. The council has requested the secretary-general to use his good offices to implement the resolution adopted unanimously on July 20.

Asked to explain what guidance he had received, Perez de Cuellar said Council President Hans-Werner Lautenschlager of West Germany had asked the members to keep the matter confidential. But he read the following statement:

"As you know, on 11 August I asked the members of the council to provide me with guidance. This they have provided me today, having once again shown a unity of purpose which I appreciate."

According to diplomats, the council told the secretary-general to press for agreement that both sides accept the resolution as a whole.

While Iraq has supported the resolution provided that Iran does the same, Tehran has given an ambiguous response to the resolution indicating it accepts parts of it and rejects others.

The council also renewed its confidence in the secretary-general's mission, the diplomats said.

Perez de Cuellar indicated he was prepared to follow up on an Iranian invitation to visit Tehran extended to him orally last Friday by Iran's permanent representative, Seyyed Rajai'e-Khorasani.

"As for the invitation to visit Iran there has been an oral exchange between the Iranian authorities and myself over the weekend and I am now waiting for a written confirmation giving details and suggesting dates," the secretary-general said.

The secretary-general has let it be known he would travel to the area only if he receives assurances that some progress will be

made.

He also indicated he would travel to Baghdad during his proposed trip to the region. "I have a standing invitation to Iraq", he told reporters.

Larijani Departs for UN Disarmament Conference
LD221229 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani left for New York Saturday to take part in the forthcoming conference on disarmament. According to the approval of the U.N. General Assembly in 1986, the conference is due to be held from August 24 to September 11.

While in New York, Larijani is scheduled to discuss crisis in the Persian Gulf with the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Meets With USSR's Petrovskiy
NC250623 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, who is in New York to attend a disarmament conference, met and talked with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy at UN Headquarters yesterday.

During this meeting, which was also attended by the two countries' representatives to the United Nations, discussions were held on the Persian Gulf situation and on the intensified foreign military presence in the region.

Envoy to Beirut Discuss Ties With Soviet Envoy
LD230734 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 23, IRNA — The ambassadors of Iran and the Soviet Union in Lebanon discussed here Saturday the Iraq-imposed war, international and Mideast issues as well as Tehran-Moscow ties.

The Soviet ambassador condemned the aggressive presence of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, terming it an excuse for illegitimate infiltration of the U.S. in the region. He said that the U.S. intended to find a foothold in the region under the pretext of securing free navigation in the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian ambassador, Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, emphasized the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in defending the Palestinian cause, stressing the necessity to destroy bases of Zionism and global arrogance in the region.

The two ambassadors called for the expansion and strengthening of bilateral relations.

Saudi Paper Says 28 Nationals To Leave Tehran
NC240902 Paris AFP in English 0853 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 24 (AFP) — Twenty-eight Saudi nationals, detained when the Saudi Embassy in Tehran was sacked August 1, are due home Monday, press reports said here.

The *Saudi Gazette* newspaper reported Monday that the 28, family members and dependents of Saudi diplomats, were due to leave Iran late Sunday or early Monday aboard a special Iran Air flight.

The paper, which quoted unnamed diplomatic sources in Tehran, said their return had been sanctioned by the Iranian Government.

With their departure, six Saudi dipomats will remain in Tehran. A seventh, political attache Musa'id al-Ghamdi, died August 17 from injuries suffered during the Iranian take-over of the embassy.

Both the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran were besieged by demonstrators August 1, one day after violence in Mecca. Saudi Arabia took the lives of hundreds of Moslem pilgrims.

Iranian leaders have charged that Saudi police opened machine-gun fire on a peaceful gathering near the Grand Mosque, causing the deaths of 322 Iranian pilgrims.

But Saudi authorities maintain that 402 people, of which 275 were from Iran, died in a crowd stampede provoked by an Iranian demonstration. They insist their security forces did not fire a single shot during the disturbances.

IRGC Spokesman Announces Military Training
LD221247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] The project for the despatch of the epic-makers of 'Ashura will be implemented 4-9 September with the participation of combat forces from throughout the country. This information was announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] to a Central News Unit reporter in Yazd.

The spokesman added: Because the month of Muharram [26 August-24 September] celebrates the epic-making event of 'Ashura, which caused extensive political and ideological movement in Islamic society, it has been arranged for persons of all ages to receive military training during the period of 'Ashura.

The spokesman also referred to the success achieved in the preliminary stages of the formation of the 20-million strong army and said: From 1 Muharram, the next stage in the formation of the 20-million strong army will be to strengthen and expand the resisting ranks. The extensive training and regrouping of the Jerusalem reserve divisions have been taken into account. The people are requested to go to the volunteer mobilization center of the IRGC and to take their places in these divisions. In conclusion, he stressed the important role of the provincial war support headquarters as the pivot for the people's participation in the war.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,936

LD221646 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — As a reprisal for Iraqi bombings of Iranian eco-industrial centers, Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded Iraq's military-industrial centers in Dahuk, Darbandikhan and Al-'Amarah Saturday morning, inflicting irrepairable casualties and losses on the enemy. The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 04:10, 05:40 and 06:55 GMT.

Announcing the above, the 2936th Joint Staff Communique reported here today that an Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire over the southern Iranian waters at 09:02 GMT Saturday. There is yet no report available on the fate of the plane's pilot or the location of the wreckage.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers were destroyed in the Maymak operational theater, western fronts, in a two and half hours clash with an Iranian patrol convoy Friday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts yesterday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying 15 gun emplacements and one jeep equipped with 106 mm gun.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Chazabeh, southern fronts, were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire yesterday, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,937

LD231613 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire halted movement of Iraqi motorized columns and armoured units in Sardasht, Naft-e Shah, Helaleh, Mehran, Faqqeh and Yebis operational theaters Saturday, the 2937th Communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said here today. The communique added that Iranian Gendarmerie forces set afire some 15 gun emplacements and watch posts of Iraqi troops killing a group of soldiers Saturday.

Iranian forces despatched 26 patrol units of sensitive spots throughout the war fronts Saturday with all returning safely to bases after carrying out reconnaissance missions deep inside enemy positions.

In other operational theaters, artillery and mortar fire of the Muslim forces destroyed several gun emplacements, a munitions depot, three military vehicles and a 106 mm gun mounted jeep.

Iraq Bombs Industrial Centers

LD231733 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — Fifteen civilians were martyred and more than 70 others wounded Sunday when Iraqi warplanes bombarded a residential quarter and some industrial centres in the Islamic Republic. The enemy twice air-raided installations at Bandar-e Khomeyni at 10:45 and 11:20 hours local time (07:15, 07:50 GMT), wounding several workers and inflicting some damage.

In another Iraqi aerial attack at 14:40 local time (11:10 GMT) on a residential quarter and an industrial centre in the town of Do Rud, Lorestan Province, 15 civilians, including a house-wife, were martyred and 67 others wounded.

Also, at 15:03 hours local time (11:33 GMT), Iraqi warplanes bombarded an industrial unit in the city of Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbayjan Province, wounding three workers.

Iraqi Industrial Centers Shelled

LD231748 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 23 Aug 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 23, IRNA — IRNA — Iranian artillery fire heavily shelled Iraq's economic and industrial centers in Al-Basrah Province, southern Iraq, today in retaliation for recent Iraqi raids on Iranian eco-industrial centers.

Heavy losses were inflicted on Iraq's Al-Haretha power station, the training center of Mechanized Division 5, paper plants, an aluminium factory and a naval base in Al-Basrah Province and on tactical headquarters of the 3rd, 6th and 7th Corps of Al-Basrah-Al-'Amarah and Al-Basrah-Abu al-Khasib roads as a result of Iranian reprisal shelling.

Communique No 2,938

LD241626 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA -- Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Sunday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces here Monday.

The 2938th Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian forces traded artillery and tank fire with Iraqi troops in the northwestern fronts Sunday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them. Some enemy tanks were also destroyed around Heights 2144, it added.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment in Sayyid Sadiq, northwestern fronts, Sunday when an enemy vehicle column carrying personnel was shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants, according to the communique. The communique said that Iranian patrols successfully reconnoitered key enemy positions throughout the fronts and returned safely to bases.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery fire pounded an Iraqi armoured unit in areas overlooking Chazabeh and an infantry unit in areas opposite Faqqeh Sunday, killing a number of enemy soldiers and damaging several tanks.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the

southern and western fronts yesterday, killing several enemy soldiers and destroying 15 gun emplacements and one heavy vehicle of theirs, said the communique.

The Joint Staff communique said that an Iraqi patrol convoy sustained several casualties and was prevented from infiltrating Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, Sunday.

Iraqi motorized units carrying supply and armoured equipment in Naft-e Shah, Maymak, Neykhazar [placename as heard], Kani-Sheykh and Mehran suffered heavy damage yesterday when they were brought under heavy Iranian artillery fire, the communique reported.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected a cargo ship and an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, the communique concluded.

70 Iraqi Casualties in Maymak

LD251352 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 25, IRNA — Heavy artillery fire of the Iranian combatants on Iraqi strongholds in Maymak, Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran and Sumar theaters, western fronts, killed or wounded 70 Iraqi troops over the past two days, an informed military sources said Tuesday.

During the period Iranian forces also suppressed Iraqi engineering activities, setting afire 12 bunkers, four watch posts, two mortar emplacements and a munitions depot, the source added.

Prime Minister Discusses Foreign Aid, Development

BK241211 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said the pace of development in the country would not be affected due to suspension of foreign aid.

He was addressing members of parliament of the Sind assembly, notables, and people representing various walks of life in Karachi today.

He said our friends have given sufficient aid to Pakistan during the last 4 to 5 years. He stressed the need for proper utilization of this aid.

He said we are passing through a trying period and we must generate all possible resources to carry out the development work.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo appealed to the people to pay their taxes so that development work could be carried out without any hindrance. He warned that tax evasion would not be tolerated. [passage omitted]

Affirms 'Peaceful' Nuclear Program

BK241626 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister, who is also president of the Pakistan Muslim League, inaugurated the office of Sind Muslim League in Karachi this evening.

Speaking on the occasion, he reiterated his government's resolve to develop nuclear technology to meet the country's growing energy requirements.

He said Pakistan's nuclear program is entirely for peaceful purposes and denied assertions by the Indian leaders that Pakistan is engaged clandestinely in developing a nuclear device.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo made it clear that Pakistan will never secretly make a nuclear bomb. It will, however, develop nuclear energy to the extent of fulfilling its requirements.

Referring to India's explosion of a nuclear device in 1974, he said it was a clear case of misuse of nuclear facilities provided by some Western countries exclusively for peaceful uses. He declared that Pakistan will not deceive its friends.

Sri Lankan Delegation Departs Islamabad 21 Aug

BK211357 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] The deputy minister for finance and planning of Sri Lanka, Mr Marikar, has expressed satisfaction over his discussions with Pakistani authorities about cooperation between the two countries in economic and other fields.

Talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport this morning before his departure for Karachi on way home, he said he has been impressed by the advancement of Pakistan in agriculture and industrial sectors. Sri Lanka can learn a lot from Pakistan's experience and technical know-how in the field of agriculture.

Noorani, Sri Lankan Minister Hold Talks in New York

BK250831 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, now in New York, has had talks with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Shamul Hameed, on regional issues. Officials say they assured each other of their determination to continue to develop friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Earlier, Mr Zain Noorani had a meeting with the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, Mr Javier Chamorro. The minister of state for foreign affairs explained the situation in South Asia with special reference to Afghanistan problem.

Special Courts Begin Trying Sabotage Cases

BK240824 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] The federal government has asked the provinces to submit complete information about foreign nationals who illegally entered and are staying in their areas. This was stated by the minister of state for interior, Raja Nadir Parvez, while talking to newsmen at the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] House in Islamabad today. He said the government will take severe action against those providing shelter to illegal immigrants.

He said special courts have started functioning and trying the cases of those involved in sabotage activities.

These courts will decide the cases in about a week and the superior courts will also be requested to dispose of the appeals at the earliest.

Finance Minister Comments on Foreign Aid Needs

BK221450 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Aug 87

[Text] The wanton [as heard] role played by foreign aid in the development of poor countries like Sri Lanka was stressed yesterday by the minister of finance and planning, Mr Ronnie de Mel. He said that a special aid group meeting will be summoned by the World Bank and the IMF to give Sri Lanka the funds required for reconstruction and rehabilitation after the ravages caused by unprecedented civil strife.

The minister was delivering the keynote address at the annual session of the Sri Lanka foreign affairs study circle held at Hotel Casabane yesterday. Mr de Mel said that no country in the world today has developed without foreign aid. Third World countries specially need the help of richer countries. He pointed out that it is unthinkable for Sri Lanka, which is one of the 20 poorest countries in the world, to exist without foreign aid. Mr de Mel added that 40 percent of foreign aid obtained by Sri Lanka was in the form of grants and the balance, 60 percent, comprised concessional loans with no interest or at marginal interest and returnable between 30 and 50 years.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1237 GMT on 22 August in a similar report adds: "Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel told a seminar here late Friday [21 August] that Washington gave 'a mere 25 million dollars' to Sri Lanka because the island was militarily unimportant to the United States.

[" 'Those who think that the U.S. will come to our help are barking up the wrong tree', he said.

["He noted the contrast between Colombo's aid and that given by Washington to Israel, and said Israel would 'collapse like a pack of cards' without the four billion dollars it received from the United States."]

Investigation of Grenade Attack Continues

BK241617 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1559 GMT 24 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (*Lanka Puwath*) — An autopsy was carried out on Mr Norbert Senadheera who succumbed to the injuries yesterday to find out whether there was a bullet which was reportedly fired from a gun, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its news bulletin tonight. [sentence as received]

The CID [Criminal Investiagtion Department] is continuing its investigations into last Tuesday's incident in Parliament.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Frank Silva said that they were still inquiring into the background of the incident.

Several people have been questioned. They include the 400 employees of Paliament who were present at the time the grenade attack took place.

Mr Silva said that the two officers from Scotland Yard were now assisting in the investigation.

AFP: LTTE Opposes Proposed Interim Administration

BK210820 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 21 Aug 87

[By M.R. Rarayan Swamy]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — An interim administration proposed for Sri Lanka's north and east under the ethnic peace pact has run into trouble due to bitter opposition from the Tamil Tigers to a police officer's inclusion in the set-up, Tamil sources said here Friday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the island's dominant rebel group, was strongly opposed to a former Sri Lankan Tamil police officer now with Interpol joining the three-member administration, the sources said. But almost all other militant groups as well as the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) have reportedly approved three nominees proposed to the interim administration by Tamil negotiators.

The Tamil-dominated north and multi-racial east are to be merged into a single unit under the India-Sri Lanka Peace Accord signed in Colombo on July 29 to end a bloody four-year ethnic conflict in which more than 6,000 people died. The new province will have a three-man interim administration and an advisory council of at least 10 members till elections are held for a new provincial council comprising the north and east by the end of 1987.

The sources said Tamil representatives, after detailed talks with TULF and the militant groups, had come up with three names to be nominated as interim administrators with the concurrence of the Sri Lankan Government. They are:

Devanesan Nesiah, an administrator and a former government agent of Jaffna, Mannar and Batticaloa Districts.

A Maheshwaran, a United Nations expert and technocrat.

R. Sundaralingam, a retired deputy inspector general of police now with Interpol in Paris.

The sources, which are close to New Delhi, said the LTTE had voiced "very serious objections" to Mr Sundaralingam being a part of the interim administration and said it would not accept anyone connected with the police or security forces. "This is the crux of the matter," the sources told *Agence France-Presse*. "The Tigers are dead set against Mr Sundaralingam. They fear they may not be able to induct their own men into a proposed police force if he is there."

The LTTE and other rebel groups could not be reached for comment in Madras, southern India, where all of them maintain offices.

The sources said a police officer was being included in the administration "since there has to be someone who knows how to

take care of and manage a Tamil-dominated police force which will come up in the north and east." This force, with the help of Indian peace-keeping troops, would also be involved in recovering arms that Tamil militants might retain.

Both TULF and the militants were against a Sinhalese administration for the Tamil province, the sources said.

The Buddhist Sinhalese are Sri Lanka's majority community, accounting for more than 70 percent of the island's estimated 16 million population, while the mainly Hindu Tamils are the largest minority.

Indian newspapers have quoted Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene as having proposed three names, all Sinhalese: Lionel Fernando, a former government agent of Jaffna and Trincomalee, Sarath Amunugama, an advisor to Mr Jayewardene, and E.F. Dias Abeysinghe, a former election commissioner.

The sources said while the three were "broadly respected, they cannot be accepted as administrators. This has been made very, very clear to the Indian Government."

Sharp differences have also reportedly arisen between the LTTE and other Tamil militant groups over the advisory council's constitution, with the Tigers claiming majority representation, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Tamil Refugees Return From India 'in Droves'
BK240935 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0918 GMT 24 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Tamils who had sought refuge in south India during the four years of ethnic conflict in northern and eastern Sri Lanka are now returning to the island in droves.

Official sources said that with the cessation of hostilities large numbers of returning refugees were arriving at the Talaimannar pier daily. They come from refugee camps on the south Indian coast. Yesterday, 54 more refugees arrived in two vallams.

Official sources said Sri Lankan Transport Minister M.H. Mohamed is now in New Delhi for talks with the Indian Government on the resumption of the Indo-Sri Lankan ferry service between Rameswaram and the Talaimannar pier.

Industrial Activity Restored in North, East
BK250918 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, industrial units in the Northern and Eastern Provinces have resumed operations after the end of the ethnic conflict following the India-Sri Lanka agreement.

The Sri Lanka Cement Corporation in Kandesanthurai started functioning on Saturday, providing employment to more than 3,000 workers. Our correspondent Sebastian Robert reports from Jaffna that major fishing centers in Milad and boat and net manufacturing units at Karainagar and Jaffna have started functioning. Aluminium, glass, and palm product factories are also working now as normalcy is restored in the area. The weaving center at Pondatarrippu is humming with activity. In the Eastern Province also the state-owned paper mill resumed operations after nearly 3 months.

In New Delhi, the Sri Lanka transport minister, Mr M.H. Mohamed, held discussions with the railway minister, Mr Madhavrao Sciendia, today regarding restoration of facilities for passenger and cargo movement between India and Sri Lanka. They also discussed possible cooperation between the two countries in the rehabilitation of railway tracks in Sri Lanka, including supply of sleeper and track materials from India. A team of officials from Sri Lanka will visit India next month to work out the details.